Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Between Saipan and Tinian, which island should the U.S. Air Force choose for its alternate airfield in the event that Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is unavailable?

Saipan	61
Tinian	122
Neither	12
Undecided	2
No opinion	5

Sunday, July 29, 2012

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LOCAL

A visual art depicting the value of respect and appreciation of the diverse cultures in the Commonwealth won accolades for Marianas High School sophomore student Hannah Alcordo. ➤ PAGE 6

BUSINESS

High unemployment isn't going away—not as long as the economy grows as slowly as it did in the April-June quarter. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

China has heightened tensions in the South China Sea with its new, remote island city and planned military garrison in a contested area viewed as a potential flashpoint for conflict in the Asia-Pacific.

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PSS posts high graduation rate this school year. PAGE 2
Tasi Tours objects to marine sports operators' request for immediate hearing. PAGE 3

CNMI mourns Army specialist from Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian resident Francisco "Frank" Mendiola, 49, said his whole body went numb when he first heard that his son, the late U.S. Army Specialist Hanson Mendiola, was brought to the intensive care unit and passed away in Texas on July 22. His son was 29.

Mendiola

"It was so hard and painful to hear news like that. My whole body went numb when I heard he was in ICU. He passed away later. The U.S. Army is still investigating what happened," the older Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview yesterday.

The father said his son joined the U.S. Army some four years ago.

"He'd always wanted to be in the Army," the older Mendiola said.

He said his son graduated valedictorian in high school, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Western Oregon University. He said his son taught for two years at Tinian High School.

"One summer he went to Guam because he said he wanted to teach there. But he called me from Guam

See ARMY on Page 4

CW permit holders share 'frustration, confusion' on travel applications

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

When Jershwin Angeles, a Commonwealth-only worker permit holder, applied for parole to travel to Guam earlier this month, he said he was told by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Saipan office to apply for a $360 advance parole but when he did, his application was denied by USCIS-Guam office. The Guam office of USCIS told him to apply instead for parole at the USCIS office on Saipan.

Angeles finally secured parole from USCIS-Saipan office on Friday, the same day he left for Guam for a football coach training.

"It's frustrating, confusing, and the requirements they were telling me seemed inconsistent," Angeles told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview. "I wonder how many more feel this way about the requirements for travel to Guam. I was only following their instructions. It seems there's no coordination, and USCIS Guam and Saipan seemed to have different sets of

See CW on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band gather for a group photo with their musical director Will DeWitt, left, after their remarkable performance Friday at the Central Hall Westminster (Westminster Abbey) where they bagged a silver award and received a standing ovation from judges and spectators.

Manta Ray Band bags silver in London Music Festival

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band brought new pride to the Commonwealth after it a bagged silver award in the London Celebration Music Festival held last Friday in the actual 2012 Summer Olympics site.

The band's musical director and conductor Will DeWitt confirmed the good news in a statement yesterday direct from London. The London Celebration Music Festival is directly part of the Olympic Games.

The Manta Ray Band was among a few handpicked bands across the U.S. to perform at the summer Olympics. Besides this historic performance, the young local musical talents from CNMI were also invited to perform at Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth's Conference Center, and a torch ceremony in Central London. A 30-minute bonus show is also scheduled at the Olympic Park during this trip.

DeWitt revealed that the festival's organizing committee—World Projects, LLC—has been tasked at the London Olympic Games by the Olympic Organizing Committee to provide musical entertainment at various Olympic events and sites.

World Projects sponsored an adjudicated performance by the five invited ensembles in connection with the Olympics again, as they did in Beijing (2008) and Sydney (2000).

Saipan Tribune learned that there were five groups that competed in this music festival where 47-member Manta Ray Band emerged the second best group. The event was held last July 27 at Central Hall Westminster (Westminster Abbey) from 2pm to 5pm.

DeWitt said the silver award was quite an honor for the Manta Ray Band to receive.

"Although they had hoped for the gold award, the band members knew that they had played at their absolute peak level during the 20 minutes they were given to per-

See MANTA on Page 4

Local

PSS posts high graduation rate this school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System reported that an impressive 97 percent of senior students in public schools in the CNMI graduated last month.

Commissioner of Education Rita A. Sablan disclosed to the Board of Education that 632 senior students successfully completed the requirements for their secondary education during school year 2011-2012, compared to 654 freshmen students registered four years ago.

From the over 600 graduates, Sablan said PSS saw a very high percentage of seniors who want to pursue post secondary education here and off-island.

She, however, also noted a significant number of students who will seek immediate employment after graduation.

Sablan earlier revealed that based on the senior exit poll conducted among five public high schools, 60 percent want to pursue college while 30 percent have plans to enter the military after high school.

The remaining 10 percent either want to seek employment elsewhere or are still undecided when the survey was conducted. The commissioner, however, admitted that the system has yet to track how many will pursue post secondary off-island and at the Northern Marianas College.

"We're very pleased with the survey [senior exit poll] because our data indicate a very high percentage of students who really want to pursue post secondary education," she reported.

The commissioner also reported that during the end of fourth quarter of school year 2011-2012, PSS had registered a total of 10,495 students from kindergarten to high school. This figure, she said, shows a one-percent decrease from the figure posted during the beginning of the school year.

By the new school year, PSS is projecting a surge in enrollment as a result of the continuing drop in private schools' enrollment due to the economic slowdown. In previous school years, *Saipan Tribune* learned that private school enrollees averaged 2,500 from kindergarten to high school.

Education officials earlier said the proposed fiscal 2013 spending plan of only $29 million would hamper the system's ability to address its increasing population. PSS maintains 19 elementary, junior, and high school campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. That is on top of 10 more Head Start facilities. It employs a little over 500 classroom teachers.

Two women get 30 months in jail for beating female cashier at store

Two women who were among five persons accused in the beating of a female cashier and two men at a store in Chalan Kanoa were slapped each with a jail sentence of two years and six months.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman in separate orders issued on Thursday, gave Norna Tipingeni credit for two months and 14 days she already served in jail.

Wiseman gave Arinna A. Reiong credit for two months and six days she already served in prison.

The judge ordered the defendants to start serving the jail term on Friday, July 27, at the Department of Corrections.

Tipingeni and Reiong are expected to be released from DOC on Nov. 11, 2014 and Nov. 19, 2014 respectively.

Wiseman required the defendants each to pay a $100 fine and $100 court assessment fee.

Wiseman ordered the defendants to pay their pro rata share of restitution to the victims in an amount to be determined by the court after the Office of the Attorney General's submission of restitution.

The judge said he believes that Tipingeni and Reiong are one of those violent and serious criminal offenders who do pose the most dangerous threat to society.

However, Wiseman said, he finds that the 22-year-old Tipingeni and 27-year-old Reiong have no criminal history either as a juvenile or adult.

"That being said, the court can not, however, excuse or minimize the seriousness of participating in a crime of such a brutal and unprovoked attack on the victim," Wiseman said.

The judge said Tipingeni and Reiong along with co-defendant Cheroleen Ray, who is now serving a two-year jail term for these crimes, went into a store where the victim was a cashier on Aug. 8, 2011.

Wiseman said the defendants began pulling the victim's hair and punching and kicking her face and body and throwing butane gas canisters on her body.

As a result of these attacks, the victim was found unconscious on the floor in a pool of blood and remained unconscious for four hours.

The physician assistant testified that it was one of the worst assaults or beatings he has seen.

The victim's injuries included a broken nose, fractures, and bruises and swelling on the head and other parts of body.

Dhaka Store where the victim was cashier was left in disarray and had to close for two weeks while the victim was recovering.

In April 2012, the jury found Tipingeni and Reiong guilty of aggravated assault and battery, but not guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon.

The jurors found co-defendant Anson Sansi not guilty of aggravated assault and battery, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Wiseman, who decided on misdemeanor charges, found Tipingeni and Reiong guilty of one count each for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. Wiseman found Sansi guilty of two counts of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Defendants Cheroleen Ray and Mark Rudolph have already entered a guilty plea and were subsequently sentenced. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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AS MANAGAHA ACCESS ISSUE HEATS UP

Tasi Tours objects to marine sports operators' request for immediate hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has no objection to the marine sports operators' request for the Superior Court to immediately hold a hearing on their motion to modify the court's $62,034 bond requirement in order for them to regain Managaha access. But Tasi Tours has.

Attorney Rexford Kosack, counsel for Tasi Tours, asserted that the court has already required the bond, thus it is the law of the case.

"If it is going to be changed it should be changed only if the stringent requirements for motions for consideration have been met," said Kosack in Tasi Tours' opposition to the marine sports operators' motion to shorten time on motion to modify bond requirement.

Kosack said the plaintiffs [marine sports operators] seek to give Tasi Tours two days or less to file an opposition whereas pursuant to the rules, Tasi Tours' opposition is due on Aug. 8.

Thus, the lawyer said, his client would ordinarily have two weeks, not two days.

Kosack said in addition to responding to plaintiffs' various motions to have chambers conferences and shorten time, he is preparing Tasi Tours' opposition to plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment.

Kosack said the rest of plaintiffs' motion to shorten time is "a naked plea" to change the court's order requiring the bond.

"What is relevant is whether the plaintiffs have met the standard for a motion for reconsideration, which should be fully briefed and argued by the parties," he added.

In the marine sports operators' reply to Tasi Tours' opposition, attorney F. Matthew Smith said DPL did not object to a shortened hearing as they understood the urgency, but, once again, Tasi Tours objected.

Smith said it is hypocrisy for Tasi Tours to now claim that there is no urgency and that regular briefing rules have to be followed because they need "two weeks, not two days" to respond.

In this case, Smith said his clients have followed the rules in seeking a proper order shortening time due to the fact that irreparable harm is being suffered.

"Tasi Tours' intent is clear. They seek to shut down the plaintiffs and control the lagoon and realize that plaintiffs are injured and on the verge of collapse during this critical peak season for their businesses," the lawyer pointed out.

On Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an order setting for Thursday, Aug. 2, a hearing on marine sports operators' request to modify the court's $62,034 bond requirement.

Last Wednesday, marine sports operators filed a motion asking the court to either remove the bond or to only require a nominal bond.

Smith, one of the counsels for the marine sports operators, stated that given the urgency of the matter, the irreparable harm already suffered by their clients, the likelihood of success on the merits, and the general lack of financial means, Camacho should amend his July 19, 2012 order.

In his July 19 order, Camacho granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

Camacho, however, ordered the marine sports operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—to post the $62,034 bond.

Camacho said the preliminary injunction shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the court.

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Fate of Rota casino investor's 'conditional' license hangs in the balance

Former Rota Casino Gaming Commission executive director Alfredo Antolin said commission rules require "automatic revocation" of a conditional license if the casino investor fails to pay the $400,000 license within 90 days of issuance of a conditional license such as in the case of Rota Resort Hotel, but RCGC chair Laura I. Manglona said yesterday that the commission has yet to make a decision on the issue.

Antolin, in responding to questions about his resignation late last week, confirmed that he resigned from his post in February 2012 because there had been no casino operator since March 2011 when the lone holder of a valid license—Rota Treasure Island Corp.—temporarily stopped operations.

But he said Rota Treasure Island's license was still valid when he stepped down from his post. Manglona said yesterday this is still valid.

The second investor, the owner of Rota Resort, was granted conditional license in July 2011.

Antolin said that conditional license holder was not able to pay the $400,000 license by November 2011 so it's automatically revoked under commission rules.

"It would take 90 days according to our RCGC rules and regulations to pay for the license until it's revoked automatically by RCGG. Ninety days from July 2011 passed and the (conditional) license that was issued is automatically cancelled in November 2011," Antolin told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona, in a phone interview last night, said the casino commission plans to meet this week to decide on whether to continue to honor Rota Resort's conditional casino license or revoke it.

The casino commission chair said the investor has been charged 10 percent for every month it fails to pay the conditional license, and the rate would have been that much by now.

"But Rota Resort continues to express interest in the casino project and continues to express interest in working with the casino commission. We are also reviewing their concerns, which I can't disclose at this time because we still haven't determined whether those concerns are within the purview of the commission or not, and some are legal issues we don't have available answer right now," Manglona said.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Rota Legislative Delegation, separately said yesterday that as far as the delegation is concerned, the conditional license is still valid and that the commission has not make any determination to suggest otherwise.

Antolin made clear that the casino commission does not get any appropriations from the CNMI government to run its operations.

"At the time around June 2011, we were hoping that the conditional license that was issued would solve our operations in June 2011 to the present. But that didn't materialize because the applicant for the license did not pay for the license," Antolin said.

Antolin also said he was offered earlier this year a position as director of the Agency for Human Resources Development, a Government of Guam Agency funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"I feel that since we don't have any casino operator and the 'conditional license' of the current applicant was revoked for non-payment, it would be best to look for other job so that (there wont' be) more liabilities incurred by the commission," he said.

The Rota casino commission owes its former executive director $60,000.

But this obligation is not part of the proposed budget for the casino commission, as contained in Rep. Teresita Santos's (Ind-Rota) local bill appropriating $13,000 for its operations and activities for fiscal year 2012.

Antolin confirmed that he's been waiting for the commission to pay his salary between June 2011 and February 2012, or for nine months, as well as reimbursements for office supplies he paid for since they didn't have any operational funds at the time.

"I never asked for the local bill to pass, but since you asked, it would be only fair and just that obligations of RCGC be taken cared of including my past due salary as a former executive director. I am being patient about not being paid because I know the situation of the RCGC finances…" he added.

He wasn't paid his salary from June 2011 to February 2012.

When asked what other information he wants the public to know, he said, "That there is only one issued casino license issued by RCGC that is valid, that is to Rota Treasure Island Casino since I resigned in February 2012."

House Local Bill 17-83, seeking to appropriate $13,000 for RCGC's operations for fiscal year 2012, is now with the governor after the Rota Legislative Delegation passed it on first and final reading on July 12.

Of the $13,000 requested, $5,000 will be for legal counsel, $7,500 for commissioners' compensation, and $500 for operations. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CW

From Page 1

rules or policies. But I'm glad I was finally allowed to go to Guam using parole."

Angeles, who has been working on Saipan for seven years, said he has yet to find out whether he could get back the $360 he paid for an advance parole application.

"USCIS Guam said advance parole is not applicable in my situation and they said all I need is a general parole which turned out to be parole. USCIS Saipan said the requirements changed just recently around July 3 and that I was given bad information. Eventually they allowed me to travel to Guam," he said.

Angeles said his CW permit was annotated, allowing for a "single entry" to Guam for the duration of the football coach training.

Marilou Malasarte, also a CW permit holder, said USCIS-Saipan office told her to apply for a $360 advance parole to be able to go to Guam, when she applied for parole on Thursday.

Malasarte was among those selected by the Northern Marianas Badminton Association to represent the group in an Aug. 3 to 4 badminton tournament in Guam.

On Friday, Malasarte said she went back to USCIS-Saipan office to ask again whether she could use her still valid advance parole to travel to Guam.

"They pointed out that my advance parole has a notation that says not valid for Guam or other U.S. area. I used that advance parole for a travel to the Philippines months ago," she said.

Malasarte said she was initially planning on applying for a new $360 advance parole, for she wanted to represent NMBA in the badminton tournament in Guam.

But when Malasarte learned about USCIS-Guam's rejection of Angeles' advance parole application, she said she will no longer go on with that application because $360 is a hefty amount during these tough financial times only to be rejected.

"These instructions from USCIS are confusing. It's causing frustration," she said.

Both Angeles and Malasarte don't have B1/B2 visas.

Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS regional media manager, reiterated that CW status is a CNMI-only transitional worker category.

Sebrechts was responding to questions about CW permit holders applying for travel to Guam and elsewhere in the United States that CW status is a CNMI

She said no special benefit to travel anywhere else is attached to CW status.

"However, we recognize that those in CW status may have a legitimate reason to seek to travel elsewhere in the United States, as they may have been allowed to do in the past as temporary visitors or parolees before acquiring the CNMI-only CW status, and USCIS has made provisions reasonably to accommodate this within the limitations of a CNMI-only status, just as we have done on a case-by-case basis since 2009," Sebrechts said.

She said the rule implementing the CW category permits nationals of the Philippines to travel through the Guam Airport en route to or from the CNMI.

In addition, people with a B nonimmigrant visa or from a visa waiver country can receive permission from USCIS to travel to other parts of the United States.

Travel to the rest of the United States is also possible even for those who were not in a position before transition to do so—that is, those without a B nonimmigrant visa or visa waiver-eligible nationality—but they must file the I-131 as explained on the USCIS web site www.uscis.gov/cw, in order for USCIS to determine whether approval of the travel is appropriate.

"As a matter of law, when someone is granted status in the CNMI as a CW nonimmigrant, they can no longer be a parolee; the grant of status to CW replaces and ends any prior parole status the CW nonimmigrant had. However, if someone has a previously issued and unexpired advance parole that provides for travel to Guam or other parts of the United States, then USCIS will consider authorizing such travel as a CW on a case by case basis without the need to file a new I-131," Sebrechts said.

More information about travel requirement is available on the USCIS website.

Relevant information about travel is question #55 in USCIS's question-and-answer page on the CW program: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=34b462c1c3073310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=4d3314dd2b635210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD

The filing fee for Form I-131 (for advance parole) is $360.

More information about Form I-131 is available at: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=b11747a55773d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnextchannel=7d316c0b4c3bf110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD.

Hapi Gabriel, a CW permit holder, said yesterday he is hoping that his parole application will be granted when he shows up for his Infopass appointment with USCIS-Saipan.

"But if I am also asked to apply for advance parole and pay $360 for that, I will no longer pursue the trip. I don't think it's practical to travel to Guam for three days and pay $360 for the application alone, and especially if USCIS Guam had already rejected a similar advance parole application, you don't want to risk your $360," he said.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, had said it's "absolutely unacceptable" to ask people to pay $360 for an application to travel to Guam.

ARMY

From Page 1

and he said he's joining the Army. I said it's his choice to make. I'm proud of my son, and I was very supportive of what he wanted to do in his life," the father said.

The late Army specialist was stationed in South Korea for a year before going back to Fort Meade in Maryland.

"I will miss everything about my son—his kindness, his respect for people. He's a very loving son of mine. He does not distinguish color of the skin or nationality. He'd give his last dollar to anyone who needs it, he's that kind of person. People love Hanson," the father said.

The late Army specialist has two siblings also serving in the U.S. —a sister in the U.S. Army and a brother in the U.S. Air Force.

The older Mendiola said the family is expecting his son's remains to arrive on Tinian on Thursday and bury him on Friday on Tinian, but he pointed out that this still could change, depending on the U.S. Army's decision.

"We would know for sure on Tuesday, which is Monday their time in the U.S. But that's what we're hoping, for the body to be here soon so we can bury him because it's been a while since he passed away and the Army still hasn't released the body," he added.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said the late Army specialist was a "great kid, very respectful, and with so much potential."

Anthony Aguon, a staffer at the office of Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), said he and the late Mendiola were members of a band called Roots Eclectic that "used to play shows in Guam and festivals on Saipan." Aguon said Mendiola "sings and raps."

"That guy's my best friend and we already miss him," Aguon said yesterday.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) said they were shocked to learn about the news of Hanson Mendiola's passing, and he extends his condolences to the Mendiola family.

"We're all praying for the family. Hanson was a very friendly person. It's unfortunate that he's gone," San Nicolas said.

Friends, colleagues, and family paid tribute and posted their memories and touching messages about Mendiola on his Facebook page.

The late Army specialist was born on March 18, 1983 to parents Francisco "Frank" Mendiola and Erlinda Sangalang-Mendiola.

The father said a nightly Rosary is being held at San Jose Church on Tinian at 8pm.

MANTA

From Page 1

form," stated DeWitt, adding that there were three judges in the music festival who include Dr. Felix Hauswirth, Dr. Larry Sutherland, and Dr. Keith Allen. They commented enthusiastically about the Manta Ray Band's performance, according to the musical director.

According to DeWitt, one judge described the Manta Band as the most highly regarded concert band on the judges' score sheets. The CNMI group was bested by a group of Chinese traditional musicians (not a concert band) from Beijing that included professional instrumentalists, dancers, and music educators.

Standing ovation

With the understanding that no performance is ever 100 percent perfect, DeWitt said nonetheless the feeling of the band was one that included great satisfaction with the overall quality of the performance.

"The students knew that they had played well when their final piece, *We Are The World* received an extended ovation requiring two curtain calls from their conductor. Performing in such an amazing venue seemed surreal at times, and also a bit intimidating," said DeWitt.

He added that during the sound check on stage before the event, students had to control their emotions, nerves, and sense of amazement at playing in such a historically important venue. By the time their performance was due, they had calmed their anxiety and performed with a level of confidence and passion that inspired not only the audience, but the other ensembles as well, who enthusiastically cheered the Manta Ray Band and encouraged the students to believe that they might be the ones to receive the coveted gold award.

DeWitt also shared that in the adjudicated areas of intonation, expression, phrasing, dynamic contrast, selection of repertoire, posture and appearance, intonation, balance, and unity the Manta Ray Band received very solid marks.

"We are proud to be representing the CNMI, the Public School System, Saipan Southern High School, and our Manta Ray Band program. We wish to thank everyone back home for the opportunity to show the world what a treasure our young musicians are!" added DeWitt.

The Manta Ray Band has performed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and had a remarkable performance two years ago in New York's Carnegie Hall where it also bagged a silver medal. It also swept major awards and hailed overall champion in the Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival for two years.

‘Roadmap created to establish hospice and palliative care program’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI should have a hospice and palliative care program, a special way of caring for people who have terminal illness that the Commonwealth Cancer Association has been trying to establish for several years now, according to Ruth Gurusamy, a registered nurse who owns such a successful program in Guam.

In an interview on Friday, Gurusamy said when they started the hospice and palliative care program in Guam, they had only one patient on a daily level.

“Today we have 15 patients. So that’s 15 people who want to die at home. They choose to die at home and today we can make that happen for them in Guam,” said Gurusamy who is president of Health Services of the Pacific-Hospice.

For the CNMI, she said based on the information she received it is likely that within a year the Commonwealth will have a hospice program up and running.

One health care provider is reportedly now working to establish the first hospice program in the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association invited Gurusamy to a forum on how to establish such a program on Friday at the Commonwealth Health Center’s administrative conference room.

Those who attended the discussions were the stakeholders—physicians, social workers, funeral home owners, representatives from home care agencies, police officers, firefighters, and representatives from private schools.

Gurusamy said the meeting created a roadmap on how to get the program started and to really make it happen in the CNMI.

Gurusamy said the forum also help create very clear rules of the role of CCA as well as the health care providers.

“So hospice program is not going to be under CCA. It has to be a separate group of people—usually a health care provider—to do that work. They are Medicare certified,” she said.

CCA’s job, Gurusamy said, is to work with the community, work with the churches, and be a liaison among the lawmakers, the governor, and the government.

She said hospice is somebody who has a terminal illness that has given the prognosis of living less than six months.

She said these patients are referred to the program, which is run by a physician, a nurse, a social worker, massage therapist, transitional worker, a priest.

“It’s a whole team,” she said.

“Imagine if I was given the diagnosis of cancer and the doctor says you know, there is no further treatment for you. And the first thing that will go in my mind is now what’s next? Well I don’t want to die in a hospital. So I’ll say to a doctor, is there any way I can stay at home?” Gurusamy said.

If there is a hospice program it is possible, she pointed out.

“The next fear that we have is we don’t want to suffer as we die. So that what hospice program is all about,” she said.

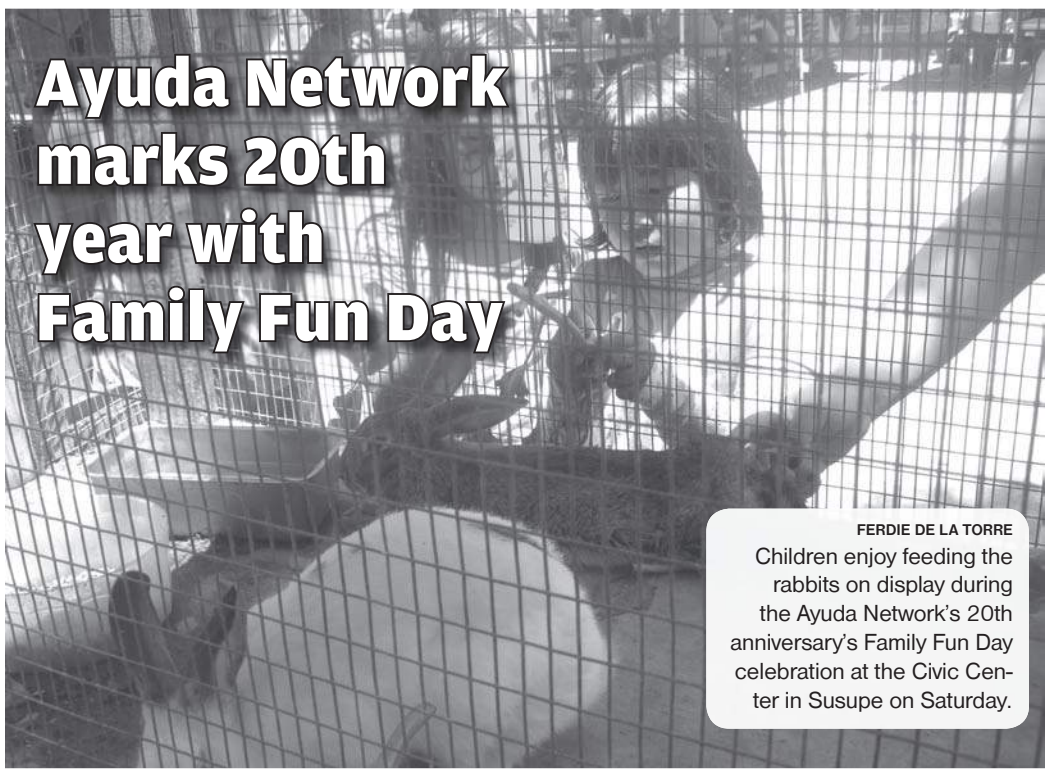
When the patient dies in a hospice program, Gurusamy said, the nurse will go out, pronounce the patient dead and will call the funeral home, and the funeral home will take the patient.

Gurusamy said what she discovered on Saipan is that the funeral homes do not have a morgue.

She said the funeral homes on Saipan will need to pick up the patient and take him or her to the morgue in the hospital.

Gurusamy cited that in the CNMI, Public Law 17-35 was written and approved to support hospice and palliative care, but the problem now is that there is no such program to make this happen.

“So if somebody wanted to die at home today, they still could not on Saipan because there’s no hospice program,” she added.



Ayuda Network marks 20th year with Family Fun Day

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Children enjoy feeding the rabbits on display during the Ayuda Network’s 20th anniversary’s Family Fun Day celebration at the Civic Center in Susupe on Saturday.

Ayuda Network Inc., a non-profit organization composed of government and private entities and individuals, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a big Family Fun Day at the Civic Center in Susupe on Saturday.

It was truly a family fun-filled day as the event featured activities like free face painting, games, arts, puppet and dog show, a basketball exhibition game, and entertainment.

The Saipan Southern High School JROTC Color Guard opened the event at 9am with the presentation of colors.

A lot of performers provided entertainment to the crowd during the event that finished at 3pm.

Debra Atalig Inos, the 20th Ayuda Network’s anniversary Family Fun Day chairwoman, said she was extremely elated and grateful to the outpouring community support.

“The support is a clear testimony of Ayuda Network’s vision to foster communication, collaboration, cooperation, and coordination,” Inos said.

Inos said on behalf of the Ayuda Network’s Board of Directors, 20th Anniversary Family Fun Day Committee, and Ayuda Network management and staff, she would give special acknowledgement to the donors, entertainers, volunteers, government and non-profit organizations, and community leaders for their support and contribution to the event.

“Thank you to our community for participating on today’s event. You all made this celebration a success,” she said during an interview on Saturday.

Among the entertainers were Maggie Naputi, Saipan Unity Lions Club Kids, Saipan Music and Dance Studio, Kodanka Warriors Dance Group, and Sole’dees Dance Group.

Many went home with prizes as free raffle tickets were given to people who showed up at the event.

Social services providers by government and non-profit organizations, and some private agencies showcased educational booths.

Vendors offered a variety of food and snacks. The NMC Proa and the Division of Youth Services also played an exhibition basketball exhibition game at the Civic Center’s court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Preliminary Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the “Open Government Act of 1992”. Notice is hereby given that a **Preliminary Hearing** is scheduled for **August 1, 2012, (Wednesday) at 10:00 A.M.,** at the **CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216**, Saipan.

The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parolee
1. APPLEBY, Shawn C **Cr. Cs. No.: 96-319**
BOP No.: 12-003

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rosa Ada Hocog Date: 07/19/2012
Hearing Examiner

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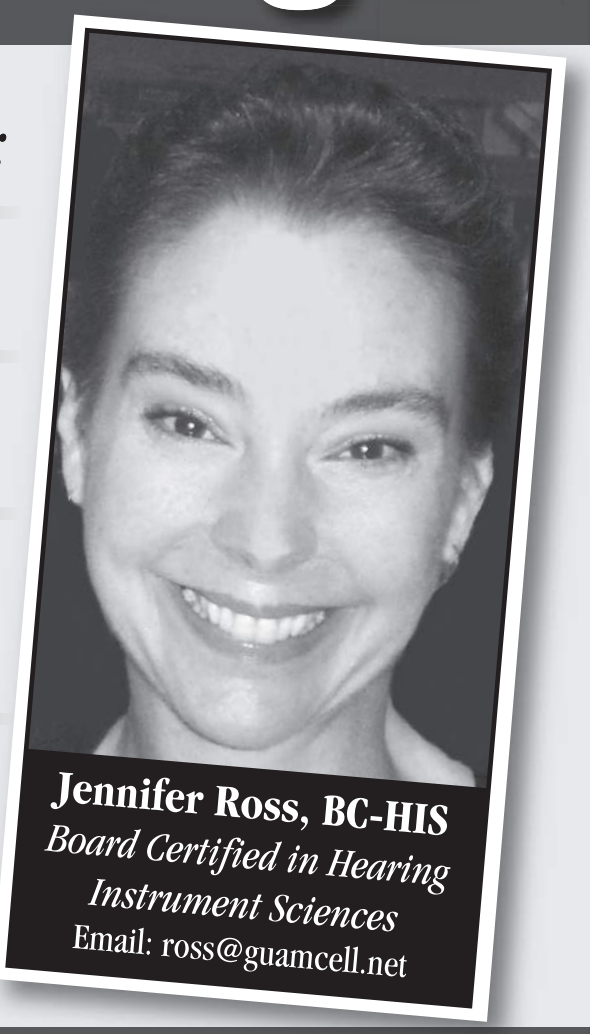

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

- **Friday, August 3rd 8:30am - 4:00pm**
- **Saturday, August 4th 9:00am - 1:00pm**

at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Ross Hearing Aids

NMI's Alcordo wins national art competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visual art depicting the value of respect and appreciation of the diverse cultures in the Commonwealth won accolades for Marianas High School sophomore student Hannah Alcordo who emerged one of the winners in the national "Call to Artists" campaign launched by the College Board, a not-for-profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education with national office in New York City.

Alcordo's art was among the 245 entries received by the organization and was among the four winners selected across the nation under the category "Asian American and Pacific Islander Summit," where 65 entries competed for the honor.

Elated by the recognition, Alcordo described her winning as unexpected as she competed mostly against senior high school students from around the world.

Alcordo is said to be the only sophomore student that joined in her category. She will be awarded $1,000 financial assistance for her college education and an all-expense paid trip to a conference next summer along with one parent and her art instructor, Wesley L. Foster.

Alcordo, the daughter of Helen and Gilbert Alcordo, is a natural-born artist. Her dream is to pursue a career path that deals with arts. This year, she also bagged the congressional art competition conducted by U.S. Delegate Gregorio Sablan and which also won her the opportunity to unveil her creation at Washington, D.C. last month.

Alcordo yesterday shared with *Saipan Tribune* that she always finds satisfaction and fulfillment from all arts and creations. The student is also an active member of the National Thespian Society where she competed in both set and costume designs.

"I love the feeling of creating something. Through art, you can look at the world in a different way," she said.

Alcordo's winning entry conveys that children who learn and appreciate different cultures could live a much more peaceful life away from discrimination and racial prejudice.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The winning entry of Marianas High School student Hannah Alcordo in the "Call to Artists" campaign which depicts the value of respect and appreciation of the diverse cultures in the Commonwealth. Inset, Alcordo stands proud around her artworks while posing with art instructor, Wesley Foster, left, and MHS vice principal Martin Dalsaso.

"Young children are the main subject in this work because how they are taught in a young age affects them as an adult and human being in the future. All of this was inspired by the day to day happenings of my life here in the CNMI, a group of islands in the middle of the Pacific that is a melting pot of cultures," she explained.

Foster, the student's Advance Placement art class instructor, said Alcordo's achievement brings honor not only to the student but to Marianas High School and the entire Commonwealth as well.

Because Alcordo is only in her junior year, the financial assistance will be deferred by the College Board until she gets to a college of her choice. The instructor also expressed excitement on the upcoming trip to the conference where Alcordo's art will be distributed to all participants and an art's signing is scheduled for the young artist.

College Board senior vice president Peter Negroni and vice president James Montoya, in their letter last Wednesday to Alcordo, said they were impressed with the local student's creation.

"All artwork submitted for the Call to Artists Campaign was reviewed by a committee that included professional artists. Your work was chosen because it displays a high level of achievement and reflects the importance of student diversity in education. We applaud you for being included in this elite and accomplished group of artists," they revealed.

CUC lifts localized drinking water boil-order

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. lifted yesterday afternoon its localized drinking water boil-order after determining that previously affected areas and villages are now free of bacterial contamination.

CUC hand-delivered last Friday notices to customers along Beach Road, from north of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan to the San Antonio Church, along Afetnas Road, and in Koblerville, alerting residents in the area that bacteria contamination was initially in the water supply.

While the utilities company has not pinpointed the root cause of the contamination on Friday, its operations crews actively cleaned the system and have taken steps to remove any contamination.

Actions include, but were not limited to, increasing disinfection, system flushing, and repairing of any potential entry points by animals. CUC also re-tested the affected areas Saturday morning.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher announced yesterday that lifting of the boil-order describing the "all clear" as welcome news for CUC customers because water use can now return to normal. He said water in the affected areas is now safe to drink as laboratory tests confirmed its safety.

"This is the first boil-order we have had in three years, so until this point an excellent record. Customers may remember back to 2009 and before, where we had many boil-orders, however, changes in our operations including disinfection processes and operations training have resulted in best practices for delivering drinking water. While we have made a lot of progress, this event shows we must stay diligent and that we have more to accomplish," stated Fletcher in a statement yesterday. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS

WATER TASK FORCE
IFB12-GOV-087

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs from Tekken St in Susupe to Orchid St. in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after July 9, 2012 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 AM, on July 20, 2012, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.
All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on July 19, 2012.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB12-GOV-087". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 7, 2012, and must be received no later than 2:00 PM August 16, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, August 16, 2012. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on August 7, 2012.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMHC RFP 2012-010
FROM
NMHC'S REGISTERED & APPROVED CONTRACTORS

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION/CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) ABANDONED/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, August 30, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from NMHC's Registered and Approved Contractors in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays.

The procedures for this procurement shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provided to the Commonwealth. Aside from other governing regulations specified in the Scope of Work, proposers are advised this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts as well as Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968. Proposers are further notified NMHC will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

/s/Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Freedom Air needs $600K loan to stay afloat

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Freedom Air spokesperson Amjad Farhoud, right, addresses the board of Development Corporation Division, while station manager Dennis Cruz, left, looks on during a meeting Friday where they appealed for $600,000 emergency fund to keep the carrier afloat in the next six months.

Freedom Air needs an additional $600,000 loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority to allow the inter-island carrier to continue its operations for the next six months, according to spokesperson Amjad Farhoud.

Farhoud told members of CDA's Development Corporation Division board Friday that Freedom Air will use the money to procure airplane engine spare parts to avert the shutdown of its service in the CNMI.

Along with airline station manager Dennis Cruz, Farhoud said from the original loan proposal of $2.9 million, the CDA division only approved $900,000 in March this year.

He said the amount is not enough to cover the priority expenditures of the carrier including obligations to vendors.

Freedom Air's attempts to seek loan assistance from private banks, according to Farhoud, were also unsuccessful due to lack of asset/collateral that would backup the loan proposal.

The carrier is said to have placed $6 million worth of collaterals for the $900,000 loan extended by CDA to the company which it utilized in immediate repairs of aircraft that resulted in the restoration of flights in Rota.

It was late last year when Freedom Air suspended and reduced its flights to Rota to give way for regular maintenance of its aircraft.

It was also forced to use seven-seater aircraft in lieu of 30-seater planes it formerly used and the switch negatively impacted the tourism industry on island. It also affected local travelers and medical referrals.

Because of the $900,000 loan from CDA, the carrier was able to bring back to normal Rota flights in March this year.

Last Friday, Freedom Air executives said it is again facing possible suspension of operations if no emergency loan will be provided to the company. Freedom Air has been servicing the Commonwealth for about 30 years.

To stay float in the next six months, Farhoud pleaded board members to consider approving the $600,000 supplemental funding request so it could scout and stock important engine spare parts that are usually hard to source out.

Farhoud said CDA initially referred Freedom Air to apply to the State Small Business Credit Initiative program for the additional loan assistance, but its application was junked by some banks because they are either not part of the program yet or the bank is not enthusiastic in entertaining an airline as a borrower.

"For now, we have dropped our Rota service from one flight a day to four days a week. Not because there's no traffic, but because we want to take care of our equipment so they can last longer. We don't have money to put up a new aircraft," he told the board.

When asked how long the airline could stay afloat with its current finances, Farhoud responded that "it could be a matter of days, it could be weeks" depending on the company's daily revenue that is now the only source of its operation.

He disclosed that if one of its vendors—such as an essential parts supplier—pulls the plug on Freedom Air, this will critically impact the business' operation.

Meantime, CDA executive director Manuel Sablan and board member Marcie Tomokane disclosed during Friday's meeting that CDA had extended the $900,000 loan to Freedom Air in March to give the company some breathing room for the next two years. CDA has yet to decide on the $600,000 supplemental loan request, however.

FAA approves $11M supplemental funding for airport runway repairs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Construction of the main runway at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is set to resume soon following the project's approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero confirmed this in a statement Friday indicating that FAA, through its airport improvement project program, also allocated additional funding of $11 million to do all the necessary repairs.

The ports authority temporarily stopped the construction at the main airport runway pending approval of FAA. This after CPA uncovered problems during the construction period.

"CPA recently received approval from FAA for additional funding to correct the deep cracks in the main runway. The original design for the project addressed cracks that were only 3/4" deep requiring milling of 3/4" and paving 2" overlay. However, during construction, it was found that the cracks had gone further than the originally designed discovery," explained Deleon Guerrero, adding that CPA, in coordination with the construction manager and contractor, proposed to FAA supplemental crack repairs.

He said the new design was forwarded to the federal agency along with CPA's request of $11 million in additional funds for the needed repairs.

With the funding approval, the executive director said crack repairs will now require 2" milling and 4" paving which will also extend the life expectancy of the airport. CPA anticipates resuming construction work by Aug. 15 with a completion date of May 2013. Guam Pacific Power Corporation Inc. is the project contractor.

Prior to the approval of the new supplemental funding, FAA has been spending approximately $21 million in the rehabilitation of Runway 7/25. Factoring in the $11 million recently approved for the new repairs, total cost of the project is at $32 million—of which $18.8 million was result of several change orders and supplemental agreements for the project.

Based on the agency's records, construction work was temporarily hold off in March 2012 following discovery of some problems during the rehabilitation period that warrants a new design. It was in 2009 when the Saipan runway project was initiated and it include among others, milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay and other works.

From the original target completion of October 2011, the ports authority had revised the schedule to February 2012 until it was pushed back to June 2012 deadline and the new target is now May 2013.

July 23, 2012

TO: LYDIA R. SASO and RYO SASO

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated August 24, 2006, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. H-221-3-6 (formerly Lot H-221-3, part of original H-221), situated in San Vicente Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,511 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2137/86, the original of which was registered on July 10, 1986, as Document No. 86-1389, at the Land Registry, Saipan

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: August 24, 2006; $17,523.00

(c) Amount due for principal: $571.24 as of June 1, 2012

(d) Amount due for interest: $4,009.92 as of June 1, 2012

(e) Daily accruing interest: $4.14

If the principal, interest, and late charges $4,581.16 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Agusto dia 24, 2006, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged)"

Sitio Numeru H-221-3-6 (estaba Sito Numeru H-221-3, patte gi sitio numeru H-221), ni gaigi San Vicente Village, Saipan, Islas Marianas, San Kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 1,511 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulat ma diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2137/86, i orihinat ni ma rehistra gi Julio 10, 1986 komo Document No. 86-1389 gi Land Registry, Saipan.

(b) i kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Agusto dia 24, 2006; $17,523.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $571.24 asta ki June 1, 2012

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $4,009.92 asta ki June 1, 2012

(e) Interes kada dia: $4.14

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $4,581.16, asta ki Junio dia 1, 2012, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER & CUBE ICE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of bottled drinking water & cube ice for CUC Administration and Operation Division Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-021, Supply & Delivery of Drinking Water & Cube Ice", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 9, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-022

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to supply fuel for CUC's light vehicle and heavy equipment on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-022, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle & Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 14, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

PHI Pharmacy celebrates 16th anniversary

» Longest-running promo offered to NMI patrons

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

PHI Pharmacy vice president Bruce Cohen, fourth left, poses with the company's pharmacy specialists at its Navy Hill outlet Saturday. From left are Susan Iguel, Marivec Callejo, and Lily Mananita.

The islands' biggest pharmaceutical outlet, PHI Pharmacy Inc., is celebrating this month its 16 years of service to the Commonwealth by offering patrons huge discounts on items and services.

PHI Pharmacy vice president Bruce Cohen announced that since last week, the pharmacy has been offering 25 to 75 percent discounts on all its over-the-counter products and other pharmaceutical supplies that will run through Aug. 10.

He described the appreciation sale as the longest promotional activity ever held by the company in years. The company carries a complete line of prescription drugs besides over-the-counter items.

Cohen said the company started its operation on Saipan on July 29, 1996 with the sole mission of giving the islanders the highest level of outpatient pharmacy services.

PHI Pharmacy started out without really knowing Saipan's demand on pharmaceutical needs and Cohen admitted that their initial estimate was just a 10-year business plan for the CNMI.

Because constant growth came in their first year, Cohen said this convinced PHI Pharmacy to expand its service offerings by establishing outlets in Dandan in 2006 and last year, in the Kagman area. PHI Pharmacy also explored the wholesale business and it has proven successful for some years now. Homecare service has also been explored and was proven effective as well.

"I think we met and exceeded our mission statement. We've been providing the highest level of outpatient pharmacy service for 16 years now and we continue to expand. PHI Pharmacy has been opened every day since 1996 even under typhoon conditions, and we will continue to be around," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Cohen said PHI Pharmacy had witnessed the good and bad years of the Commonwealth from its prosperous times to the exodus of garment industry to the present Medicaid issues and health problems.

But the vice president remained optimistic that solution will soon be identified to address these concerns, especially on the Medicaid program which owes the company a substantial amount that resulted in the suspension of service to Medicaid clients since early this month.

To date, Cohen said the company has 27 personnel all working at its Navy Hill and Dandan outlets. This after it recently shut down the Kagman outlet due to the negative impact of economic slowdown in the CNMI. Despite this challenge, Cohen assured that the company remains economically prepared for any future challenges that may come its way.

PHI Pharmacy's outlet in Navy Hill is open from 8am to 6pm Mondays through Fridays and 8am to 4pm during Saturday and Sunday. Its Dandan outlet accommodates clients from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday while 8am to 4pm during Saturday.

Delta donates two tickets for TOC hole-in-one prize

Delta Air Lines has announced that it has donated two BusinessElite tickets to the U.S. as a hole-in-one prize at the upcoming Tournament of Champions on Aug. 4 and 5. The value of each ticket exceeds $6,000.

"The Tournament of Champions continues to raise critical funds that benefit important projects, especially projects that benefit the CNMI's tourism industry," said Chris Concepcion of Delta Air Lines Sales and Marketing. "As in previous years, we are happy to be a part of this year's event again."

"We would like to thank Delta Airlines for its sponsorship and its commitment to the event," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The hole-in-one prize is sure to entice players to join the tournament."

The 17th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on August 4 and 5. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $175.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place.

The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Airlines representatives Esther Sound (center) and Chris Conception (first from left) present the two BusinessElite tickets to the U.S. that will be featured as one of the hole in one prizes at this year's 17th Annual Tournament of Champions. Accepting the tickets is TOC director Ben Babauta (second from right), and DFS employees Marida Pensader, Boyet Centeno, and Arthur Miron

Over $300,000 worth of prizes is at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes worth $50,000 on both the east and west courses courtesy of AON Insurance. The Bank of Hawaii also recently confirmed that it is sponsoring another hole-in-one prize of $20,000. Other hole-in-one prizes include a 2012 Ford Fiesta from Joeten Motors, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors and a 2013 Toyota Venza from Microl Toyota.

If that's not impressive enough, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize, while Delta Airlines is also contributing business class airfares to the U.S. mainland as yet an additional hole-in-one prize.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

"We are proud of our continued commitment to enhance the beauty of Saipan for our tourists and residents." Babauta, said. "It is the generous support of our golfers, sponsors, and committee members that make this event possible."

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2012 TOC, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 30, 2001

Bill 'seduces' educated locals to return home

Alarmed over the increasing trend of people studying outside the Commonwealth and staying outside, the Senate recently passed a legislative initiative that aims to create a recruitment program targeting CNMI citizens who have earned college degrees off island. Senate Legislative Initiative 12-6, SD1 primarily seeks to amend the CNMI's Constitution, particularly the provisions on the annual appropriation, to set aside 5 percent of the total annual budget for the recruitment program. According to Sen. Pedro P. Reyes, the initiative's author, many younger citizens of the CNMI who have gone abroad to study and have finished their college degrees are reluctant to return as there are no incentives or opportunities for them here.

NMC revises policy on non-US students

Foreign nationals with documented CNMI residency of more than three years are now classified as resident students under the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents' new residency policy. This newly-adopted policy now enables NMC's block of non-US citizen students to pay tuition equal to the rate imposed on resident students. The uniform tuition rate for resident students now stands at $65 per credit. Prior to this, NMC's resident tuition structure ranged from $65 to $80 for courses starting from the 300-level and higher.

July 30, 2002

Rotary to raise $10K for Chuuk

The Rotary Club of Saipan will take over four radio stations on Saipan tomorrow in a one-hour marathon fundraising event aimed at collecting $10,000 for the typhoon victims in Chuuk. Saipan Rotary Club President Ed Salas disclosed yesterday that a series of fundraising efforts are slated this week to assist victims of Typhoon Chata'an. Chuuk, which was heavily devastated by the recent typhoon, is in need of medical supplies. Salas said the primary goal of the Rotary Club is to raise a substantial amount that would assist the Chuuk government in procuring the needed items.

Tinian trader, DOLI officer sued for bribery

A Tinian businessman accused of bribing a Labor and Immigration official over a month ago has been charged with the criminal offense before the Superior Court. John Hun Lee, 49, of the Tinian Hotel was sued on bribery raps amid allegations that he paid DOLI-Tinian officer Estevan King Jr. to commit an official act last June 14, 2002. The Attorney General's Office also named King as a defendant in the bribery case, based on information filed at the trial court yesterday. Tinian Resident Head for Labor and Immigration Janet H. King, in an interview, expressed dismay over the AGO's decision to prosecute the DOLI officer, whom she said was the one who reported the bribery incident.

July 30, 2003

Election reform bill signed into law

Gov. Juan N. Babauta stamped his approval yesterday on the election reform bill that was crafted to clear the controversy over the 10-percent requirement that precinct candidates must garner in order to have their political parties recognized. "The measure is to clarify that the intent of Public Law 12-18 Section 6003 (o)(3) is to require that each candidate must secure votes equal to 10 percent of the total number of voters who voted in the precinct election. "Therefore, all of the political parties recognized in the last election would continue to be recognized in the next general election since their candidates garnered the requisite number of votes in the last election," explained Babauta in his transmittal letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature.

NMI mulls inviting Bush to drop by

Taking off on a suggestion by Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, the Babauta administration is now drafting a letter inviting President George W. Bush to swing by the Marianas region on his way to the APEC summit in Thailand this coming October. Babauta told reporters yesterday that he has already received Tenorio's letter and his office is now acting on the matter. "We are drafting a letter to invite the president to consider coming through here, through the CNMI, and that's about all that we can do-extend the invitation to him," said Babauta. Should Bush agree to the idea, Babauta said this would be a boost to the CNMI and would mark the first time that a sitting U.S. president would visit the Northern Marianas.

Puerto Rico moves to save cockfights

» As matches go underground amid economic crisis

By DANICA COTO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Friday, July 6 2012 photo, the owner of an injured gamecock motions to stop a cockfight fight at Las Palmas, a government-sponsored cockfighting club in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. AP

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Each man clutched a wriggling knapsack and stood in line, anxious to have every gamecock weighed and outfitted with spurs for a match at one of Puerto Rico's largest cockfighting clubs.

Within minutes, the men repeatedly called out the weights of their feathered fighters in a scene reminiscent of a Wall Street trading floor as they sought a suitable opponent of the same heft.

Then the action started. "Kill him! Kill him!!" one man urged his gamecock, which was throwing up blood as more than two dozen men gathered around a small ring at the government-sponsored club. The bird eventually won the fight and stood atop its dead rival, still pecking at it.

It's a scene many might consider unsavory, but it unfolded on a recent afternoon in an arena paid for with U.S. tax dollars, on an island territory where cockfighting is a legal and popular activity.

In fact, the territory's government is battling to keep the blood sport thriving, as many matches go underground to avoid fees and admission charges levied by official clubs. Although long in place, those costs have since become overly burdensome for some as the island endures a fifth year of economic crisis.

The business once generated $100 million a year in revenue for government-owned clubs across the U.S. territory, among the few places in the world where such fights remain legal. Recent figures are unavailable, but many say revenue at such clubs has plummeted.

"This year has been a death blow," said Angel Ortiz, longtime owner of Las Palmas cockfighting club in Bayamon. "All the cockfighting clubs in Puerto Rico are empty."

The territory's Sports and Recreation Department operates Ortiz's club and others that together have grossed about $30 million a year in bets alone. It's an industry that employs about 100,000 people and draws an estimated 1 million spectators a year, but that number has been dropping, said Carlos Lopez, president of Puerto Rico's cockfighting commission, which oversees the clubs.

The Spanish introduced cockfighting to Puerto Rico in the 16th century, and the sport was officially recognized for the first time in April 1770. The practice was banned after the U.S. invaded the island in 1898, and it wasn't until August 1933 that it won official status and became known as the "gentleman's sport" because of its honor-based betting system in which men yell bets at each other and later pay them.

Cockfighting is allowed in other U.S. territories, including Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. While it's also legal in Puerto Rico, many matches still take place in secret. Terry Mills, who investigates blood sports for the New York-based American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the group opposes all cockfights regardless of whether they are held in legal or illegal venues.

During a fight, gamecocks repeatedly peck at each other with their sharp beaks, raising and kicking their legs fitted with plastic spurs that can cut deeply. A winner is declared if one of the animals dies, runs away or falls and fails to get up within one minute.

"Gamecocks are subjected to horrific abuse," Mills said. "We oppose fighting any animal for entertainment or profit."

But in October 2010, Puerto Rico legislators voted for a widely-lauded resolution to protect cockfights, stating they're an integral part of the island's folklore and patrimony. Subsequent legislation to crack down on illegal fights have received a lukewarm response.

"They can propose whatever measures they want, but no one will put a stop to this," said Samuel Hernandez, a 29-year-old gamecock breeder, who has attended clandestine fights and says he understands their attraction.

Puerto Rican cock-fighting has long been considered a social equalizer, with everyone from farmhands to business executives sitting elbow-to-elbow at fights. It's accessible to all, from those who can afford only one scraggly gamecock to reggaeton singers who buy gamecocks at $3,000 a pop.

Ortiz's club is among Puerto Rico's largest, but on a recent Friday the cries of about 25 men urging their gamecocks to kill each other reverberated across a half-empty venue that once was filled beyond capacity.

"The number of clandestine fights is proliferating," Lopez said. "It's so much easier in a shrinking economy to get 20 or 30 people together and fight the gamecocks on a farm or in the back of a business."

Puerto Rico currently has 86 government-regulated cockfighting clubs, down from 107 in recent years, according to Rep. Angel Rodriguez Miranda, who recently submitted a bill to strengthen penalties against those organizing or participating in clandestine fights.

Rodriguez withdrew the bill after the Senate rejected it earlier this month.

Legislators and police have long hesitated to crack down on clandestine fights and get involved in what many consider a cultural bastion.

Senator Antonio Fas Alzamora, who voted against the proposed bill, said he opposes clandestine fights but doesn't believe penalties would deter anyone.

"I chose to leave things as they are because I'd be changing what has been a tradition, a cockfighting culture that I respect," he said.

Those accused of organizing or participating in clandestine fights face up to $5,000 in fines or up to six months in jail, but the law is rarely enforced, Lopez said. Raids seldom lead to convictions because of technicalities.

Ortiz, the club owner, said the government needed to crack down on clandestine fights and said owners will take their concerns to the island's cockfighting commission in the coming weeks. He dismissed suggestions by some legislators that illegal fights don't exist or are difficult to find.

"They know where the fights are," Ortiz said. "Everyone knows where they are ... They need to put their pants on and draft a law."

Hernandez, the gamecock breeder, said that many in the business are already overwhelmed by the cost of breeding, feeding and training a gamecock and are reluctant to pay inscription and other fees at government-sponsored clubs. "Everything has gone up," he said.

No fees are paid at underground fights, and bets can be much lower than the usual $50 minimum and $100 average placed at clubs, which also charge a fluctuating parking fee, a $5 inscription fee and $5 for spurs that have to be bought there.

Carlos "Junior" Aponte, a former president of the cockfighting commission, said that limiting the sale of spurs to state-sponsored clubs would help end the underground fights. "Without spurs, there is no winner," he said. "It's like taking away their ball and bat."

Hernandez estimates that he spends roughly $300 a year for each of his 40 gamecocks, which he trains every Saturday and feeds a diet that includes honey, papaya and chickpeas. He also shaves the bottom half of their bodies and tans them in the sun as is customary to make them more attractive.

Hernandez said no one gets rich by fighting the birds; they do it out of passion for the sport.

"Anyone who tells you that he is a gamecock breeder and has money," he said, "with all due respect, you tell him he's a liar."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TES kindergarten enrollment

Kindergarten registration at Tanapag Elementary School has started and will run up to Aug. 3, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the main office of the school campus. There will be only 20 slots for kindergarten. It's a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements include a registration form, health clearance/certificate, birth certificate, proof of guardianships, and map of residency. For more information contact the main office at 237-3162/4. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

UOG hosts workshop on wireless networking

The University of Guam Telecommunication and Distance Education Operation has partnered with International Centre for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Berkeley, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Green WiFi to host a workshop on Wireless Networking in the Developing World to be held at UOG on July 31 to Aug. 2, 2012.

Workshop participation is limited to eight students due to course material licensing and team project installation. Preferred participants are University students with regional backgrounds who have a working knowledge of computer operations and networking. The Wireless Networking in the Developing World workshop is free of charge for the eight students who are selected to participate.

Students may submit a letter of interest with current resume or bio to Manny Hechanova via email at mhechanova@uguam.uog.edu. The deadline to apply is July 30, 2012. ***(UOG)***

Free films every Friday at the Park

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitors Center auditorium.

Aug. 3: Ice Age (2pm)

Aug. 10: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2pm and 6pm)

Aug. 17: Rio (2pm and 6pm)

The regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

Samoa poised to pass bills focused on women's rights

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Samoa's government says key bills to help women could be passed this year.

Samoa has presented a periodic report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Megan Whelan reports.

"The associate minister for women, community and development, Gatoloaifaana Amataga Gidlow, has told the committee that the Family Safety bill could be passed by the end of the year. This bill includes marital rape as an offence, allows for legal abortion if it is to preserve the life of the mother, and creates a new offence of solicitation of prostitutes. Gatoloaifaana says another bill, the labor and employment bill, which provides for six weeks paid maternity leave in the private sector, has taken some time, but is now through its first and second reading. Samoa's report to the committee says issues of women taking up matai titles and not sitting in village council meetings have been raised as a policy issue that also requires a change in traditional attitudes and practices. It says the proposed constitutional amendment to allow for more seats in Parliament for women will facilitate more dialogue on women's access to matai titles."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Games in troubled times: London, do well

The British economy is sinking deeper into a double-dip recession. Property values there remain depressed. Public employment and services have been slashed, and there may be more pain for many years to come.

London, time to put on a good show.

Friday's opening of the Olympic Games comes at a time when the British people and many others around the world feel the stress of joblessness and debt and struggle to maintain living standards.

The Olympics won't make anyone forget those troubles. But the Games will give us an opportunity to celebrate the best of the world's athleticism and the spirit of friendly competition.

The British have done this before, and brilliantly. Europe's problems today pale next to what it faced the last time London hosted the Games.

In 1948, death and destruction haunted postwar Europe. The allies had won the war, but England had lost its economic grip. Its infrastructure was a shambles, its credit tapped out. Even the weather that year was worse than the weeks of rain that preceded this summer's Games.

The British carried out the '48 Olympics on the cheap. No new venues were built. Athletes were billeted at former military camps. Contestants were told to supply their own towels. Many brought food as well. One British athlete eager to build herself up ahead of the Games forced down the only readily available, unrationed animal protein she could find: whale meat.

The opening ceremony concluded with a release of pigeons, though fewer than was intended. Thousands had died in their holding pens.

But the Games of '48 were a popular success. They helped to heal terrible wounds.

The Games beginning Friday won't match the money's-no-object spectacle of the Beijing Olympics in 2008. To keep rain and fog at bay for the opening ceremony, the Chinese even used missiles to seed the clouds. But given the times, the 2012 Olympics may be an even more impressive achievement.

The run-up hasn't exactly been smooth. The planners spent three times as much as the original estimate in 2005. Great Britain has scrambled to meet security concerns. Traffic has been trouble.

Then there was the diplomatic dust-up this week when Mitt Romney arrived in London and promptly and publicly doubted whether the city was ready for the Games. Bad form, Mr. Romney.

London's preparations were completed on schedule. The city has used the opportunity to regenerate depressed neighborhoods in the east of its metropolitan area. Housing and transit have been transformed, with every expectation of lasting benefits. Working in Britain's favor: It has a lot of recent experience with showcasing itself to the world. It hosted the Queen's Diamond Jubilee earlier this year and a royal wedding in 2011.

Sure, there will be controversy. There always is. At least nine athletes already have been suspended for alleged doping violations. One athlete was kicked off the Greek team for sending an insensitive tweet.

But we look forward to 16 days of the most fleet and graceful athletes in the world performing at their peak, performing to honor their homelands.

Best of luck, London. You've brought the world to your doorstep. Now bring on the Games.

(c)2012 Chicago Tribune

Let's make a wish

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

We have heard many heart-warming stories about the wonderful non-profit organization called the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This organization grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions in the hope of enriching that person's human experience with hope, strength and joy. But today I want all of us to think of wishes that we wish would come true. Then it will be up to us to see why they can come true or cannot come true. Come to think about it, we have more power than we realize but we rarely exercise it.

I will start with my list and you add your own. My first wish is for all our people who want to work to have the opportunity. This wish includes the chance to learn a trade or profession. This will create prosperity because all who work will receive some sort of income. And most of all should slow down the exodus of our people from the CNMI.

Another wish is for the Administration and our Legislators to sit down as one group regardless of party affiliate and seriously discuss in union how to resolve the many economic problems we are facing. Of course, this is not happening but it is election year time and the Legislators will be asking for our vote. Are we hearing the promises already? What can we do about this problem? We can tell them to put up or shut up. What is your wish on this?

I wish that the CUC would get its act together. It keeps apologizing for non-collections and keeps penalizing those of us who faithfully pay our utility bill. I wish CUC would turn off the Administration's, the PSS's, the CHC's and any other government agencies' utilities who do not pay their bill. Wow! What a foolish wish! I forgot we are in an emergency situation which means this cannot be done because someone said it cannot be done.

A wish for everybody is for the CHC to be able to give the proper and necessary medical treatment to patients instead of acting as on oversized clinic. What started out as a great promise and pride for all of us when the hospital was built has now become a place when we have to go there we don't know what the results of our visit will be. Will we come out alive or—? Help!

I know that many government workers both retired and still working will wish with me that the pension fund will somehow be revitalized. What did we do to ourselves? How did we get into this mess?

Go to the Dandan food stamp office and see how many of our local citizens are lined up for food stamps. Wish with me that they can find a job and help themselves. There is work but how many of them are looking for it and are trained for it?

Our list of wishes can be endless. We can spend a lifetime wishing and doing nothing about fulfilling them. Why does it have to be that way? What does it take to make most of our wishes come true? The only way wishes will come true is for us to make them come true. But how?

By now you are thinking that I am getting soft in the head playing with wishes. But the plain fact is that wishes are the stuff that real life is made of. As children we have wishes. As adults we continue to have them. But too often they are never fulfilled because we are not willing to pay the prices for them.

Fellow citizens, we know we are in deep trouble and we know that it is getting worse. Therefore, I will stop making wishes here because I know they will never come true unless you and I take action. It is obvious that our local government is not concerned with us. It is only concerned with getting itself reelected. How else can one explain the fact that we have been repeatedly told that we have no money, yet all of a sudden government employees will be working a full 40 hour week in a few months? What about the rest of us—non government employees?

Frankly speaking, I am going to create my own wish list and do everything in my power to make it come true. And here is my number one priority wish: I want to create job opportunities and working opportunities for us—the local people!

I and several other people have several projects in mind which will create jobs and business opportunities. In about a month or so we will disclose all of them. And if we fail in succeeding with them we will tell you why and what happened.

No, we am not being braggarts, only determined to succeed. The government is too busy looking out only for themselves and not the rest of us. Therefore we must pick ourselves up and do what has to be done. Help comes only when we begin to help ourselves, not when we sit and beg.

Please don't think I am bitter or criticizing our government officials. They know what they are doing so I cannot change their course of action. Perhaps they do not feel that employment for our local people should be the number one priority, so be it. I think it is and will pursue that course of action.

From my research of the major problems in many countries in the world, the major problem is employment for its citizens. I read a BBC World Service survey that covered 11,000 people in 23 countries which concluded that unemployment is the world's fastest worry. Look at what it is doing to our community—longer breadlines at the food stamp office, more crime, poverty, exit of citizens from our islands, alienation of relationships, etc. What has happened to our pride and dignity?

Sadly I have arrived at the following conclusion: Were all the U.S. born Americans, Chinese, Koreans, and Filipinos leave the CNMI, it would fall into total bankruptcy. Why? Could it be that it is these people who control the vast majority of all commercial establishments? How many businesses are owned by locals? This a scary situation when we try to find ways to improve our prosperity.

How did we lose our self-reliance and industrious? Our fathers and grandfathers certainly had them. When did we begin demanding entitlements and become greedy? Why are so many of us demanding handouts and have a feeling of dependency? We seem to have lost our honor, humility, personal, and social responsibility. We want our share even at the expense of others.

Please, let's wake up and take control of our economy. The only stronghold we currently have is that we still control the government, but this too will change one day in the near future. Then what will we locals have when we cannot locals only to the government? Look at Hawaii how it has changed.

Yes, let's make wishes but let's pay the prices they require. We have everything to gain or we have everything to lose. Which shall it be?

Where there is no spark, there can be no flame. And no wishes will come true until we wake up and go to work. Wear a huge SMILE daily. I want us to feel good when we meet. Do have a fabulous week!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Manzhouli

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

In my Iloko dialect, suli means a corner. Manzhouli sits on a corner in the northwest promontory of Nei Menggu bordering into Wai Menggu (now the nation of Mongolia) and Russia. It is that part of China that is sandwiched between Mongolia and Russia east of Ulan Batur, and southeast of Irkutzk, in the Hulanbier prefecture.

Getting off the train on midday, the first visual assault was on the seemingly misplaced copulas atop Slavic architecture in the skyscape of this city by the Mongolian grasslands.

Manzhouli is the Russian word for Manchuria, and the city was first built as the entry point of the rail line from Moscow, which later extended to Harbin. It would have gone all the way to Dalian had not the Japanese taken over, but the Mukden to Manzhouli train we took actually originated in Dalian (Darien to history buffs).

Harbin prides itself as the Moscow of the Far East, and its old architecture in the business district justifies its claim to the shadows of Byzantium. But Manzhouli is, for all practical purposes, a modern Russian city, with Zhongguoren proprietors. The commercial signage is in Russian Cyrilic alphabet along with Zhongwen characters. We did not pay close attention to the Byzantine languages back in graduate school and our little foray into Deutsh only got us into the lazy habit of running into the dictionary.

Besides, we had the mistaken notion that to be nationalistic in the Philippines at the time, we had to object to the requirement that we earn 24-credit hours to learn our Spanish to get a Bachelor's degree. Our rationale was choice rather than imposed DoE requirement, but the consequence was dire. Our familiarity to the tongue of Cervantes became cursory, at best, to our chagrin when we found us in Sud America where the nuances of Castillan, Basque, Aranese, and Catalan were lost to our untrained ear. We were also totally lost in Portuguese Rio de Janeiro.

Language was not our Manzhouli contradiction; billeting was. It was reasonable that on this summer, we headed north rather than go to the humid south. Half of China agreed, and they seemed to have come along. Manzhouli's cold is not until the end of August.

All the hotels with large Russian names had prices geared toward the international jet set, while the national hotels hosted the Chinese nouveau riche with their preferred GM/Ford sedans and Mercedes Benz/Land Rover SUV's. For a country of relatively low per capita income, China has sure got a lot of loaded folks!

Luckily, we discovered from the tour guide on the train that at the basement near large hotels, there are sleeping rooms available to tour guides and the transient crowd at very reasonable prices, provided one will share a WC and sleep in windowless rooms. When I located one of these places, I was ready to plunk the $10 per night accommodation rate until I told the young proprietor that I would stay for four nights. Kindly he lowered my rate to only $8. The backpackers' stop where I was originally headed charge $15 per head in shared quarters, so I really lucked out.

> *Harbin prides itself as the Moscow of the Far East, and its old architecture in the business district justifies its claim to the shadows of Byzantium. But Manzhouli is, for all practical purposes, a modern Russian city, with Zhongguoren proprietors. The commercial signage is in Russian Cyrilic alphabet along with Zhongwen characters. We did not pay close attention to the Byzantine languages back in graduate school and our little foray into Deutsh only got us into the lazy habit of running into the dictionary.*

Shower at the communal bathroom is only $2 per soak-and-wash, with an option for dead skin scrubbing at an additional $1. My four-day rate = a hair saloon visit in SF!

Every Chinese town locates around a body of water, either around a lake or along a river, and Manzhouli has Beihu Lake and park where the people gather in the evening. The young boys go into acrobatic break dancing, or do fantastic rapid steps, while elders and matrons with grandkids in tow line dance along familiar Nei Menggu music. At the park, some sell wares on spread blankets, or browse through the instant flea market.

A favorite game is the jian zi where strips from one piece of colorful paper or celluphane is centrally round metal weighted and secured by rubber band, kicked from one person to another (a version of sipa in Pea Eye), involving anywhere from three to a dozen folks. Others sling shot flashing projectiles into the sky, while others fire up paper lanterns billowed like blown shopping bags and sent up as air lanterns

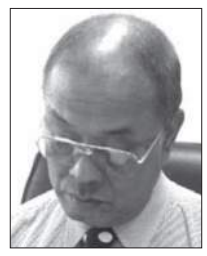
The flashing neon lights are, however, for the shopping. Evening is the time of choice. Multiply Garapan by a factor of 500 and one gets a picture of what downtown Manzhouli looks like, all 10-by-five rectangular blocks of commercial glitter. It is still naturally light at 8pm so the tourists are out buying up the offerings of the numerous 10R-and-up stores. We decided to get scarves that hawked for 20R (renminbi), less than $3 each. I use them as centerpiece covers in my classroom.

Military issued "Made in Russia" (I was assured by the tour guide that anything marketed as "Made in Russia" was surely from Guanzhou) 6x24 magnification binoculars sell for less than $15, though a proprietor showed me the expensive German ones for $400 when he discovered I was a foreigner.

All the Russians I saw were rotund, so I skipped the Russian cuisine. The Mongolian diet of roasted lamb and calf dripped with too much cholesterol, and it shows among Chinese who prefer to keep their wardrobe tight fitting rather than draped.

We were good for Guangdong noodles and vegetable soup. That's a corner already turned.

Diskuidu kontra mamoble



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Mampos ha estotba-yu' iniguñg man-malañgu siha ni man-madispacha ginen hospitat sin amot pot fatsu i gobietnu sumuda'e apas obligasioña gi programan medicaid.

Este na diskuidu ti isau i malañgu sa' tat planuña mamadese. Lau pinadesen malañgu mafattu gi maseha haye. Pinessun nesessidat niha pot diskuidu. Man-mapega ha'anen niha gi piligrosu na estau sa' mantai amot. Ahe', ti malineg ulu sa' megai gi man-u'uguñg man-seriosu chetnot niha deste riñihon, korason, gofes, kosas sanpapa', higadu, tatkilu' haga', yan otru siha mattirun hinemlu'.

Ni unu gi man-ma'gasta trumata i asuntu kumu emerensiha hombre masede dos besis na uttimun semana na u falofan sin satton na attension. Yangin unu giya siha poduñg, kau estake masusede este 'nai para u mueba kaleñke niha? Mampos ti hoñgiyon este na diskuidu. Fan ma'ase' sa' kontodu familian miyu para u fan inaminasa ni mañan miyu la mañana.

■ ■ ■ ■

Mafabrikan Kuttura

Pot grasia, maila' ta deka' ñaihon asuntun kuttura ni man-maplanta guine gi alacha gi hechuran selebrasion gi plaset Festival of Arts.

Guihe na pueñge, duru i bailan palitu (mas: Carolinian traditional dance) yan otru siha modun baila. Guaha representasion kuttura deste antes, guaha lokue' mafana'an "modetno" na dobladan baila siha. I tatatte 'nai mafabrika nuebu siha na bailan natibu ni tai relasion yan estorian tautau tanu' deste antigu na tiempu.

I dandan mauleg na buruka machuda' gi aire ginen, "Hafa Adai". Duru i tropan Guahan dispues sinigonduye ni ginen Saipan. Bibu i pañgpañg tambut (potsu) gi dos segidu na "hafa adai". Kulan pueñgen hafa adai!

Dispues tinatiye ni bailan "hula" ginen tropan man-hoben siha na famaguon famalao'an. Mafa' katsu i uson palabra "modetnu" kumu eskusu para uson dobladan dos kanai ginen kutturan Polynesia gi sanlichan gi patten Pasifiku.

Humuyuñg lokue' un' palao'an ya ha kantaye i niyug gi hilu' pisu (chant) ni muna' kilulug hinasoghu. Deste ñgai'an 'nai gai kuttura i Chamorro "chant?" Na ti patte este gi tradision Polynesia yan Karolinas?

Hulie' lokue' grupon famalao'an gi PBS Guahan man-babaila gi kantun tasi. Mafafaisen: "Galaide, para manu hau?" Bai' famatkilu yangin i kapitan mafaisen, lau galaide? Anog na lamegai gi mafa' "modetnu" na dobladan baila siha mafrabrika po kombiñiente 'nai ni unu hagas patte gi estorian natibu.

Tai malefaghu 'nai man-mattu tropan gailaide giya Luta ginen Guahan. Mafaisen i kapitan haf' finatton niha. Ilegña na ma-aliligau manu 'nai gaige iya Luta. Ilegña un' cheluta, "Hagas gaige Luta guine deste tutuhon i tanu'". A` Saina!

Mana setbe lokue' kara' dañkulu na hima kulan señat suenu. Hombre iya, man-malefa hamyu na metgot mampos i atmas i kontrariu tat kumu kañon Español kontra flechan Chamorro? Kau magahet na gi hilu' piligrosu na kondision sa' metgotña i kontrariu atmasña u huyuñg i natibu fumatgue' na listu para estrakadan finatai?

Lamegai gi hu lili'e pagu debi ta bira hit tatte ya ta simientu gi haf' magahet patte gi kutturan yan tradision tanu'. Yangin ayu ha' guaha i ineyagta ginen Español, pues maila' ta fama sa' buente lokue' hagas poble natibu fina' baila yan che'chu attista pot kada ratu hinatme yan inaminasa ni otru nasion.

Libianu ta preparaye programan man-ñgiñge', komplimientu, yan man-na'chaleg siha na grasian tautau-ta gi finaposta deste antes. Usun kabesa siña sumatba i dididi' poble na kutturan baila, sunidu yan attista. Lau gi todu pinetsige, na seguru na ma-añkla ennau gi estorian pot tautau-ta. Cha'mu fumafabrika kuttura pot kombiñiente. Si Yuus Maase'!

■ ■ ■ ■

Finu' Amku'

Hi hilu' inadisgustun familia, mampos sentidu i sentimentu kulan gaselina ni ensegidas pagpag ya mañila' gigon masoñge ni chispas palitun maches.

Estaba guihe na pueñge un' amku' ni umadiñgan pot sustansian inafamauleg gi halom familia. Ayu na pueñge pot primet biahe 'nai hu huñgog haf' kumeke ilegña ti "ma-eskohe" gi fina' estrakadan dos fuetsudu na che'lu. Pot esso na ha faisen i famaguoña na u fan afamauleg dimas de umabohau sensian betgansa.

Hana' fan agu'ot kanai todus. I fino'ña i amku kulan sirenu 'sino uchan ni pumunu' i guafen imbidiu gi korason i famaguoña. Tat ti nina' ma'agim ni finu' ayu na amku'. Magahet na megaiña bintaha i sensian inafamauleg ke inadisgustu.

I fetti yan fotte na dakun uttimoña guiya mismu humoñge i dinagiña kumu magahet. Baba yan tailaye na bisiu. Na' para ensegidas 'sino mana' kiliskis hau gi tesun sasalaguan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

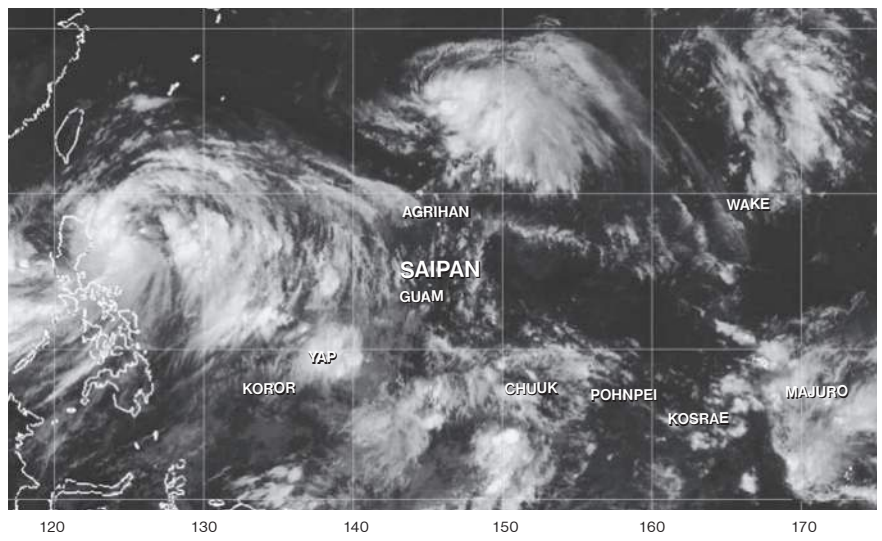
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲77	▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼36
Miami	Sunny	▲89	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
Osaka	Sunny	▲89	▼77
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼55
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough meanders southeastward from Tropical Storm Saola (10W) near Luzon at 17N125E through a circulation south of Guam at 6N145E to end southwest of Kosrae at 3N162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis over Yap but north of Koror within 225 miles of a line from 18N130E to 9N141E. Similar weather is also seen near the circulation and south of the trough axis from south of Koror eastward to Chuuk south of a line from 1N132E to 9N147E to 6N157E. Scattered showers are present north of the trough axis over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 115 miles of a line from 12N152E to 4N163E. Tropical Depression (11W) Damrey is centered near Iwo To island at 26N146E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms associated with this system are seen between Iwo To and Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 20N145E to 20N154E. An elongated upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island at 27N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are evident near Wake Island north of a line from 18N165E to 22N176E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands, Tarawa and Butaritari south of a line from 16N163E to 15N167E to 12N166E to 11N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:05 PM	2:43 AM
Tuesday	5:02 PM	3:44 AM
Wednesday	5:55 PM	4:45 AM
Thursday	6:43 PM	5:45 AM
Friday	7:28 PM	6:42 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Unemployment could stay high as US economy slows

WASHINGTON (AP)—High unemployment isn't going away—not as long as the economy grows as slowly as it did in the April-June quarter.

Weak consumer spending held growth to an annual rate of just 1.5 percent, even less than the 2 percent rate in the first quarter. And few expect the economy to accelerate in the second half of the year as Europe's financial woes and a U.S. budget crisis restrain businesses and consumers The growth estimate Friday from the government suggested that the U.S. economy could be at risk of stalling three years after the recession ended. Economists generally say even 2 percent annual growth would add only about 90,000 jobs a month. That's too few to keep up with population growth and drive down the unemployment rate, which is stuck at 8.2 percent.

The figures came in the Commerce Department's quarterly report on gross domestic product. GDP measures the country's total output of goods and services, from the purchase of a cup of coffee to the sale of fighter jets.

"The main takeaway from today's report, the specifics aside, is that the U.S. economy is barely growing," said Dan Greenhaus, chief economic strategist at BTIG LLC. "It's no wonder the unemployment rate cannot move lower."

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, expects the unemployment rate to end this year—and next year—at 8.3 percent. He said he foresees no decline in unemployment because of how tepid he thinks economic growth will remain: 2.2 percent for all of 2012 and 2 percent for 2013.

Stocks rose as investors shrugged off the sluggish U.S growth and focused instead on pledges from European leaders to preserve the union of the 17 countries that use the euro. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up more than 187 points. Broader indexes also jumped.

The lackluster economy is raising pressure on President Barack Obama in his re-election fight with Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. But few think the Fed, the White House or Congress can or will do anything soon that might rejuvenate the economy quickly. Many lawmakers, for example, refuse to increase federal spending in light of historically large budget deficits.

No president since Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the depths of the Great Depression, has been re-elected when the unemployment rate exceeded 8 percent. Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush were ousted when unemployment was well below 8 percent.

Polls show that management of the economy is the only issue on which those surveyed express more confidence in Romney, with his business background, than Obama.

Glenn Hubbard, economic adviser for Romney, said Friday's report largely matched economists' expectations.

"But those expectations themselves and the report itself were actually quite disappointing," Hubbard said. "At that pattern, the economy simply will never return to full employment."

Alan Krueger, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, noted that the report showed the economy grew for the 12th straight quarter. Still, Congress could strengthen growth and job creation by adopting Obama's plan to extend expiring tax cuts for all except the wealthiest Americans, Krueger said.

Republicans want the tax cuts extended for all Americans.

The 1.5 percent growth rate in the second quarter was the weakest since GDP grew at a 1.3 percent rate in the July-September quarter last year. And it shows the recovery is gaining no momentum.

After shrinking 3.1 percent in 2009 in the midst of the recession, the economy grew 2.4 percent in 2010. Last year, growth slowed to 1.8 percent—roughly the same meager pace at which the economy expanded in the first half of this year.

Even in normal times, such growth rates are subpar. They're especially weak for a recovery that follows a deep recession, when growth is typically much stronger than average.

Facebook's stock sinks, so who should buy it?

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors are dumping Facebook's stock, spooked by slowing revenue growth, the lack of a financial outlook and plans to spend more money in the coming months.

Are they right?

Only if they are thinking in the short term. Investors can expect Facebook's stock to be volatile for a few years. But analysts say those willing to wait will likely be rewarded—someday.

"I view it as a tomorrow stock," says Christian Bertelsen, chief investment officer at wealth management firm Global Financial Private Capital.

"The whole thing on Facebook is, look, if your time horizon is hourly, weekly or even monthly, this is not the stock for you," he adds. "You need to take a much longer-term view on it."

That's about three or four years, he says.

Founded in CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Harvard dorm room in 2004, Facebook was a product of the PC era. Now, in the age of mobile computing, a growing number of people are accessing Facebook through their iPhones, Android gadgets and tablet computers. Yet Facebook is only now starting to figure out how to make money from its mobile audience.

"The company is going through an almost painful transition from desktop to mobile," Baird analyst Colin Sebastian says.

He calls Facebook "a speculative investment," but one with plenty of potential.

"With almost one billion users, Facebook is amassing the most comprehensive user profile database in existence," Sebastian says. This, he adds, offers a "significant opportunity" to reap a big chunk of the global advertising market, which is currently at $500 billion a year.

"Amazon comes to mind immediately," Bertelsen says.

After that company went public in 1997, at the time mainly just an online bookstore, critics were quick to cry dot-com bust, call its business a broken, and so on. Today, it is the world's biggest online retailer, selling everything from DVDs to vacuum cleaners to Web storage.

"Now they are the retailer to the world," he adds.

Amazon.com Inc.'s stock price grew to more than $200 a share, from less than $2. Of course, Facebook has started out much higher, at $38.

Facebook's first earnings report since its rocky initial public offering on May 18 was the second coming that didn't quite materialize. So investors sent Facebook's stock to its lowest level ever on Friday. Shares fell $3.14, or nearly 12 percent, to close at $23.71 after hitting $22.28 in the morning. The previous low was $25.52, reached on June 6.

The stock dropped despite the fact that Facebook's second-quarter results met Wall Street's expectations, with revenue one-third higher than last year.

Given the rocky economy and investors' heightened sensitivity to a stock's value, betting on a company becomes a "show-me story" for many of them, Sebastian says. That means investors want proof rather than Facebook's word that it can grow its revenue and make a profit.

AP

In this Tuesday, May 1, 2012, file photo, worker Maria Contrero, of Boston, removes an elite running shoe from a sole press during the assembly process at the New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. factory in Boston.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hyundai recalls some Santa Fe, Sonata for air bags

DETROIT (AP)—Hyundai Motor Co. is recalling some Santa Fe SUVs and Sonata sedans because of problems with their air bags. The Santa Fe recall involves nearly 200,000 vehicles in the 2007 to 2009 model years. Hyundai dealers will reprogram the front passenger air bag sensors so they will accurately detect when a small adult is seated. Hyundai said it received complaints from some adults under 130 pounds whose air bags didn't deploy. No injuries have been reported. The air bags were originally programmed not to go off to protect children. The company is also recalling 22,500 Sonata sedans from the 2012 and 2013 model years because their side air bags could go off without warning. Hyundai said it has received 16 complaints about the Sonata's air bags, but no injuries have been reported. Owners may contact Hyundai at 1-800-633-5151.

SEC says Chinese firm illegally traded on oil deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The Securities and Exchange Commission said Friday that it froze assets of Hong Kong traders who bought stock in a Canadian company before a firm owned by the Chinese government announced plans to buy it this week. The SEC said Friday that Well Advantage Limited and other traders used accounts in Hong Kong and Singapore to make over $13 million trading shares in Canadian oil and gas company Nexen Inc. based on inside information. China's CNOOC Ltd. Oil company announced plans to buy Nexen on Monday for $15.1 billion.

Failure of Georgia bank brings 2012 total to 39

WASHINGTON (AP)—Regulators on Friday closed a small bank in Georgia, bringing to 39 the number of U.S. bank failures this year. That's a slower pace than in 2011; 61 banks had failed by this time last year. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized Jasper Banking Co., based in Jasper, Ga., with $216.7 million in assets and $213.1 million in deposits. Stearns Bank, based in St. Cloud, Minn., agreed to assume all the deposits and purchase essentially all the loans and other assets of the failed bank. In addition, the FDIC and Stearns Bank agreed to share losses on $106 million of Jasper Banking's assets.

German minister rejects talk of Spain aid request

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's finance minister is rejecting talk of a possible application from Spain for the eurozone's bailout fund to buy the struggling country's bonds, a newspaper reported Saturday.

This week, European Central Bank head Mario Draghi promised to do "whatever it takes" to preserve the euro. The German and French leaders then said that they were "determined to do everything to protect the eurozone."

Neither mentioned any specific action. But those comments raised expectations that the ECB—or the eurozone's temporary rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Facility—might step in to buy Spanish government bonds and lower the country's borrowing costs, which have been at worryingly high levels in recent weeks.

Still, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble was quoted as telling the Welt am Sonntag newspaper that Spain's short-term financing needs are "not so big."

Asked about talk that Spain could soon make an application for the eurozone rescue fund to buy bonds, he replied: "There is nothing to this speculation."

"The high interest rates are painful and they create a lot of concern—but it's not the end of the world if one has to pay a few percent more at a few bond auctions," Schaeuble was quoted as saying.

He added that an aid package worth up to (EURO)100 billion ($123 billion) to help Spain's banks, which are laden with soured investments following a property sector collapse, is "sufficiently large." Spain's budget-cutting and economic reform efforts will have positive effects, "on the financial markets too," he insisted.

Spanish officials have been adamant that the country, the eurozone's fourth-largest economy, will not seek a full-scale bailout along the lines of those given to Portugal and Ireland as it battles with a persistent recession.

Nation

Colo. victims mourned at funerals in 3 states

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP)—A man who saved his girlfriend's life at the Colorado movie shooting was remembered for his selfless sacrifice Saturday, while an aspiring sportscaster was praised for her boundless energy and an Air Force reservist as a good friend.

The girlfriend who Matt McQuinn saved by taking three bullets aimed at her wept as pastors spoke of the senselessness of the shooting spree at the suburban Denver theater where 12 people were killed just more than a week ago.

■ ■ ■ ■

DENVER (AP)—A woman who was critically wounded in the Colorado theater shooting that left dead her 6-year-old daughter has suffered a miscarriage.

The family of Ashley Moser said in a statement Saturday that she is recovering from surgery but that the trauma caused the miscarriage.

Jacki Kelley of the Jefferson County sheriff's office declined to release details and says the family has declined to speak to the media.

Moser's daughter, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, was the youngest person killed in the attack at a midnight showing of the new Batman movie in Aurora, Colo., more than a week ago.

Moser suffered gunshot wounds to her neck and abdomen. A family member has said they hadn't told her about Veronica's death.

The family says funeral plans for the girl remain pending.

AP

Samatha Yowler, middle, is escorted from the Lawrenceville Cemetery after graveside services for her boyfriend, Matt McQuinn on Saturday, July 28, 2012, in Springfield, Ohio.

■ ■ ■ ■

Mourners packed a church in this western Ohio town where McQuinn came from, while family and friends gathered in San Antonio on the same day to remember Jessica Ghawi and a private funeral service was held at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo., for Staff Sgt. Jesse Childress.

More funerals are set for next week.

When gunfire broke out in the Aurora theater, McQuinn, 27, dove in front of his girlfriend, Samantha Yowler, and was shot three times.

Yowler, who was shot in the knee and survived, arrived at McQuinn's funeral on crutches Saturday and wept quietly with his parents and other family during the funeral. Neither she nor his parents addressed mourners at the Maiden Lane Church of God.

Pastor Herb Shaffer, who is also McQuinn's uncle, said his nephew had been a gift to his family since he was born, and that his actions in Colorado were just one example of his selflessness.

McQuinn called his mother three times the day before she had surgery because he was upset that he couldn't be there in person, Shaffer said. When he was just 7, he put his arm around his younger cousin because he was worried she wasn't having a good day, he said.

Then he talked about McQuinn's greatest sacrifice of all, saving Yowler, whom Shaffer described as the love of his nephew's life.

"In moments of crisis, true character comes out," he said. "His immediate response was to protect the woman he loved."

"Matt's death is a sudden loss, one that has produced many questions in your minds," Pastor Dan Fiorini said. "I know you're asking in your heart of hearts, why? Why was Matt there? Why was a gunman allowed to enter that theater? Why was he able to purchase guns and ammunition so easily? Why didn't God do something?"

Fiorini said he couldn't answer any of those questions.

"We can wrestle with the whys of this tragedy for eternity and never come up with an answer," he said.

Shaffer told mourners that the shooting forever changed them.

"Our lives will never be the same," he said. "The words Aurora, Cinema 16 shooting, Batman, will never mean the same thing, and we'll be reminded of Matt every time we hear them."

Mourners at Ghawi's funeral also touched briefly on the massacre.

"If this coward could have done this with this much hate, imagine what we can do with this much love," her brother, Jordan Ghawi, said at the Community Bible Church in San Antonio.

But most of the service focused on the life and energy of the aspiring 24-year-old sports journalist.

"What we will not do today is focus on how she left us," said Peter Burns, a friend from Colorado, reading a statement from Ghawi's mother, Sandy. "Jess was a force to be reckoned with. She was a jolt of lightning. A whirlwind. A Labrador puppy running clumsily with innocent joy."

100 days to go: Tight race, defining moments left

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stubbornly close and deeply divisive, the presidential race throttles into its last 100 days as an enormous clash over economic vision, with the outcome likely to come down to fall debates, final unemployment numbers and fierce efforts to mobilize voters. It may seem like an election for the whole nation, but only about eight states will decide who wins the White House.

Polling shows the contest between President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney remains remarkably static across the country and in those pivotal states even as both men and their allies pour money into largely negative television advertising to sway opinions.

The two candidates will intensify their time before voters in the weeks ahead, knowing much of the public will not truly start paying attention until after Labor Day.

What voters probably will see will look a lot like what's played out so far—a bitter, bruising, personal contest over who can be trusted to fix the economy. Obama, for example, used his weekend radio and Internet address to blame Republicans for a stalemate that could raise taxes on Americans next year, and he took a swipe at Romney without mentioning his challenger by name.

"Republicans in Congress and their nominee for president believe that the best way to create prosperity in America is to let it trickle down from the top," he said. "They believe that if our country spends trillions more on tax cuts for the wealthy, we'll somehow create jobs—even if we have to pay for it by gutting things like education and training and by raising middle-class taxes. They're wrong."

The upcoming stretch is loaded with opportunities for the candidates to capture the public's imagination, land a big blow or flub a chance. Romney is closing in on his vice presidential nominee, both candidates will give highly scrutinized convention speeches, and the two will face off three times in October debates.

Then there are the surprises—be they national events or scares from abroad—that can jolt the campaigns and test the candidates.

"We're all looking for that moment," said David Gergen, a political analyst who has advised Republican and Democratic presidents. He predicted it could come in the first of the debates, in Denver on Oct. 3, when Obama and Romney finally stand on a stage together and go at it over economic policy.

Black couple says racism forced wedding relocation

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi couple says the church where they planned to get married turned them away because they are black.

Charles and Te'Andrea Wilson say they had set the date and mailed invitations, but the day before their wedding they say they got bad news from the pastor of predominantly white First Baptist Church of Crystal Springs: Some members of the church complained about the black couple having a wedding there.

The Wilsons, who live in nearby Jackson, said they attend the church regularly although they are not members.

Pastor Stan Weatherford told WLBT TV (http://bit.ly/QSNlf8) he was surprised when a small number of church members opposed holding the wedding at the church.

"This had never been done before here, so it was setting a new precedent, and there are those who reacted to that because of that," said Weatherford.

Weatherford performed the July 21 ceremony at another church.

"I didn't want to have a controversy within the church, and I didn't want a controversy to affect the wedding of Charles and Te'Andrea. I wanted to make sure their wedding day was a special day," said Weatherford.

WLBT reported that church officials now say they welcome any race. They plan to hold internal meetings on how to move forward.

Church member Casey Kitchens said she and other members of the congregation are outraged by the church's refusal to marry a black couple, a decision she says most of the congregation knew nothing about.

"This is a small, small group of people who made a terrible decision," Kitchens told The Clarion-Ledger (http://on.thecl.com/QSRyQa). "I'm just ashamed right now that my church would do that. I can't fathom why. How unfair. How unjust. It's just wrong."

ACROSS THE NATION

DA: Mass. dad shoots 2 kids, 1 fatally, kills self

OXFORD, Mass. (AP)—A man who had recently separated from his wife shot his two children, killing his 7-year-old daughter, before committing suicide, prosecutors said. A family member called police Saturday night after finding the bodies of 41-year-old Daryl Benway and his daughter, Abigail, in the master bedroom of their two-story Oxford home, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early Jr. said. Benway's 9-year-old son, Owen, was found shot in the head in the kitchen and was taken to UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in serious condition. Benway's wife, Kelleen, returned home after the shootings, unaware of what had happened, and found a swarm of police cruisers and television crews, Early said. She was taken to the children's hospital, where authorities told her the fates of her children and husband.

Hundreds celebrate rare white bison at Conn. farm

GOSHEN, Conn. (AP)—Dozens of Native Americans wore the traditional garb of their ancestors, sang songs and beat drums on a western Connecticut farm Saturday in celebration of the birth of one of the world's rarest animals—a white bison. The miracle calf was officially named Yellow Medicine Dancing Boy at the elaborate ceremony at the Mohawk Bison farm in Goshen in the state's northwestern hills. It was born June 16 at the farm of fourth-generation farmer Peter Fay. Many Native Americans consider white bison a symbol of hope and unity; some consider their births sacred events. Experts say white bison are as rare as one in 10 million.

Authorities find missing Ark. girl alive in Tenn.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Police found an Arkansas girl alive in Tennessee late Saturday, along with the man suspected of abducting her and killing his parents, authorities said. Little Rock police spokeswoman Sgt. Cassandra Davis said officers in Memphis, Tenn., found 33-year-old Antonio Whitlow and 12-year-old Amber Whitlow—his parents' adopted daughter—hours after the couple was found dead at their Arkansas home. Both Amber and Antonio Whitlow were in police custody in Memphis, Davis said late Saturday, and the girl didn't show any signs of injuries. Little Rock detectives were expected to travel to Memphis overnight to pick them up, Davis said.

Asia

Analysis: US dilemma in South China Sea response

WASHINGTON (AP)—China has heightened tensions in the South China Sea with its new, remote island city and planned military garrison in a contested area viewed as a potential flashpoint for conflict in the Asia-Pacific.

How might the United States respond?

Criticize Beijing too strongly and the Obama administration will strain its relationship with the emerging superpower. Let it pass and undermine two years of intense diplomacy that has promoted the U.S. standing among Southeast Asian nations that are intimidated by China's rise.

A key plank of the administration's engagement in the Asia-Pacific since 2010 has been its declaration of a U.S. national interest in the maintenance of peace and stability in the South China Sea, where China and five of its neighbors — most notably the Philippines and Vietnam — have competing territorial claims.

But tensions have only escalated. China's raising of the flag this week at Sansha municipality, on tiny Yongxing island, 220 miles (350 kilometers) from its southernmost province of Hainan, come as claimants jockey for influence in the resource-rich region.

China will not be able to project much military power from such a small outpost — with a population of just 1,000 people and scarcely room for an airstrip — but it has symbolic importance. Beijing says the municipality will administer hundreds of thousands of square miles (kilometers) of water where it wants to strengthen its control over disputed — and potentially oil-rich — islands.

In Washington, lawmakers interested in Asia policy have been quick to respond. Republican Sen. John McCain called the move provocative and reinforced worries that China would attempt to impose its territorial claims through intimidation and coercion. Democratic Sen. Jim Webb said China's attempt to assert control of disputed territories may be a violation of international law.

While the State Department was careful in its commentary, it also criticized China's "unilateral moves."

"I think there is a concern here, that they are beginning to take actions when we want to see all of these issues resolved at the table," spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Thursday.

President Barack Obama will not want to appear soft on China as he fights for re-election against Republican contender Mitt Romney, who has accused the incumbent of being weak on Beijing and has vowed to get tough, in particular, on China's trading practices.

However, the United States walks a fine line in its diplomacy on the South China Sea, always stressing it does not take a position on the competing sovereignty claims.

Unlikely Vietnam considers same-sex marriage

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Dinh Thi Hong Loan grasps her girlfriend's hand, and the two gaze into each other's love-struck eyes. Smiling, they talk about their upcoming wedding—how they'll exchange rings and toast the beginning of their lives together.

The lesbian ceremony in Vietnam won't be official, but that could soon change. The Communist government is now considering whether to allow same-sex couples to marry or legally register and receive rights—positioning Vietnam to become the first country in Asia to do so.

"Our love for each other is real and nothing changes regardless of whether the law is passed or not," Loan said. "But when it is passed, we will definitely go registered. I can't wait!"

Even longtime gay-rights activists are stunned by the Justice Ministry's proposal to include same-sex couples in its overhaul of the country's marriage law. No one knows what form it will take or whether it will survive long enough to be debated before the National Assembly next year, but supporters say the fact that it's even being considered is a victory in a region where simply being gay can result in jail sentences or whippings with a rattan cane.

"I think everyone is surprised," said Vien Tanjung, an Indonesia gay-rights activist. "Even if it's not successful it's already making history. For me, personally, I think it's going to go through."

Vietnam seems an unlikely champion of gay-rights issues. It is routinely lambasted by the international community over its dismal human rights record, often locking up political dissidents who call for democracy or religious freedom. Up until just a few years ago, homosexuality was labeled as a "social evil" alongside drug addiction and prostitution.

And Vietnam's gay community itself was once so underground that few groups or meeting places existed. It was taboo to even talk about the issue.

But over the past five years, that's slowly started to change. Vietnam's state-run media, unable to write about politically sensitive topics or openly criticize the one-party government, have embraced the chance to explore gay issues. They have run lengthy newspaper stories and television broadcasts, including one live special that won a top award.

Video of Vietnam's first publicized gay wedding went viral online in 2010, and a few other ceremonies followed, capturing widespread public attention. The Justice Ministry now says a legal framework is necessary because the courts do not know how to handle disputes between same-sex couples living together. The new law could provide rights for owning property, inheriting and adopting children.

"I think, as far as human rights are concerned, it's time for us to look at the reality," Justice Minister Ha Hung Cuong said Tuesday in an online chat broadcast on national TV and radio. "The number of homosexuals has mounted to hundreds of thousands. It's not a small figure. They live together without registering marriage. They may own property. We, of course, have to handle these issues legally."

Globally, 11 countries have legalized same-sex marriage since the Netherlands became the first to do so in 2001. Only a few U.S. states allow it, but President Barack Obama provided hope for many couples worldwide after announcing his support earlier this year.

AP

Photographers take pictures as former police officer Abner Afuang burns a Chinese flag in front of the Department of Foreign Affairs to oppose the presence of Chinese vessels in the disputed territory in the South China Sea Friday, July 27, 2012 in suburban Pasay City, south of Manila, Philippines.

Both Koreas mark 59th anniversary of war armistice

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)—Elderly North Korean veterans pledged loyalty to their 20-something leader in Pyongyang during Korean War armistice commemorations Friday that were being closely watched after Kim Jong Un reshuffled the military and revealed he's married.

Over the last two weeks, Kim has taken on the title of marshal and replaced his army chief—once a key mentor. Both moves were seen as an effort to build loyalty among the million-man armed forces and solidify his credentials as commander.

North Korea also revealed Wednesday that the stylish woman at Kim's side in some public appearances this month is his wife. Images of her walking with Kim were choreographed to show the leader as modern, mature and down-to-earth, analysts said, and contrast sharply to his intensely private father, Kim Jong Il, who ruled for 17 years before his death in December.

Kim Jong Un and his wife weren't at Friday's event. Hundreds of aging veterans were shown on state television in a huge auditorium as Choe Ryong Hae, the military's top political officer, stood beneath giant portraits of Kim Jong Il and North Korea founder Kim Il Sung and urged the crowd to "follow the leadership of Marshal Kim Jong Un and win 100 out of 100 battles."

North Korea later set off fireworks. At another location earlier in the day, soldiers from a tank unit named after military officer Ryu Kyong Su, famous in North Korea for leading troops during the war, also staged firing drills.

Ri Kyong Won, a 62-year-old general-grade officer, told the Associated Press that his troops will not tolerate the United States or South Korea doing anything to denigrate the North Korean leadership.

The commemorations are meant to kindle patriotism and loyalty in North Koreans, and especially the young, by showcasing veterans who fought for their country, said Kim Yeon-su of Korea National Defense University in Seoul.

Separately, North Korea is filling vacancies left by the sudden dismissal of former army chief Ri Yong Ho. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency introduced the new military chief, Hyon Yong Chol, as Ri's successor as a vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party in a dispatch Friday. Hyon was promoted to vice marshal and chief of general staff after Ri was dismissed earlier this month. Kim Jong Un chairs the commission.

While South Korea and the U.S.-led U.N. forces that fought in the Korean War call Friday the 59th anniversary of the armistice that ended the 1950-1953 conflict, North Korea calls it a celebration of "victory in the Fatherland Liberation War" and veterans streamed into the capital.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea: Typhoon-fueled floods killed 88 this month

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says that heavy rain caused by a typhoon has killed nearly 90 people, destroyed thousands of homes and submerged a large amount of farmland. Seoul-based analyst Kwon Tae-jin says the flooding is expected to worsen North Korea's chronic food shortage because it comes soon after a severe drought. The official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday that rains over the past month killed 88 people and left more than 60,000 homeless. It says about 4,800 hectares (11,860 acres) of cropland were washed away and 25,700 hectares (63,500 acres) submerged. The United Nations said last month that two-thirds of North Korea's 24 million people face chronic food shortages.

Jeep veers off Nepal highway, killing 14

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Officials say a jeep has veered off a highway in Nepal, killing 14 people who were on their way to cremate the body of a relative. Two others were seriously injured. District official Chet Narayan Ghimire says the dead included 13 Nepali citizens and their Indian driver. He says the accident occurred Saturday in Palpa district, 300 kilometers (185 miles), west of Katmandu, as the group was traveling to a pilgrimage spot to cremate the body. Ghimire says few other details are available because the driver was killed and the two survivors are too badly injured to provide information.

Chinese man gets death sentence for murdering 11

BEIJING (AP)—State media say a serial killer in southwestern China's Yunnan province has been sentenced to death for murdering 11 people. The official Xinhua News Agency says a court in Kunming city found Zhang Yongming, 56, guilty on Saturday of killing the 11 in Jinning county between 2008 and 2012. He showed no remorse in court. Xinhua says Zhang strangled his victims and used various methods including dismembering and burning the bodies to destroy evidence. It says he had been sentenced to death in 1979 for another homicide but was released after his sentence was reduced.

World

Syrian rebels survive regime onslaught in Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian government launched an offensive Saturday to retake rebel-held neighborhoods in the nation's commercial hub of Aleppo, unleashing artillery, tanks and helicopter gunships against poorly armed opposition fighters.

Yet after a day of fighting, the rag-tag rebel forces remained in control of their neighborhoods in Syria's largest city, said activists, suggesting they had successfully fought off the government's initial assault.

The international community has raised an outcry about a possible massacre in this city of 3 million but acknowledged there was little they could do to stop the bloodshed. The foreign minister of Russia, a powerful ally of Syria, said it was "simply unrealistic" for the Syrian regime to cede control.

The state-controlled al-Watan newspaper celebrated the assault with a banner headline proclaiming the fight for Aleppo "the mother of all battles."

The rebels are estimated to control between a third and a half of the neighborhoods in this sprawling city, especially a cluster in the northeast around Sakhour neighborhood and in the southwest.

They began their attempt to wrest this key city from the government's control a week ago. About 162 people have been killed, mostly civilians, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which does not include soldiers in its toll. Some 19,000 people have been killed since the uprising began in March 2011, estimated the group.

For Saturday, activists estimate that at least two dozen have died so far in the day's fighting.

Local activist Mohammed Saeed said the rebels have managed to keep the regime's tanks at bay so far with rocket-propelled grenades.

"The army hasn't been able to take any neighborhoods yet, there are too many from the Free Syrian Army," Saeed said, referring to the rebels.

He estimated that about 1,000 fighters had poured into the city in the past few days to take on the Syrian army, which had been massing forces around the city ahead of its attack.

By the end of Saturday, according to the Observatory, the government appeared to have pulled back from its ground offensive and was resuming its bombardment of various neighborhoods with artillery. Attack helicopters pounded rebel positions.

There were few details about the attack in the state press, although it issued a long list of victories across the country against the "terrorists," as the rebels are referred to, a sign of widespread fighting.

The international community has expressed growing concern that there could be major bloodshed if Syrian troops retake Aleppo. But Western nations and their allies have found themselves powerless to prevent the situation from deteriorating despite a series of diplomatic efforts, including a cease-fire agreement that never took effect.

Kofi Annan, who brokered the agreement, expressed concern Saturday about the weapons buildup in Aleppo. "I remind the parties to the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and urge them to exercise restraint and avoid any further bloodshed."

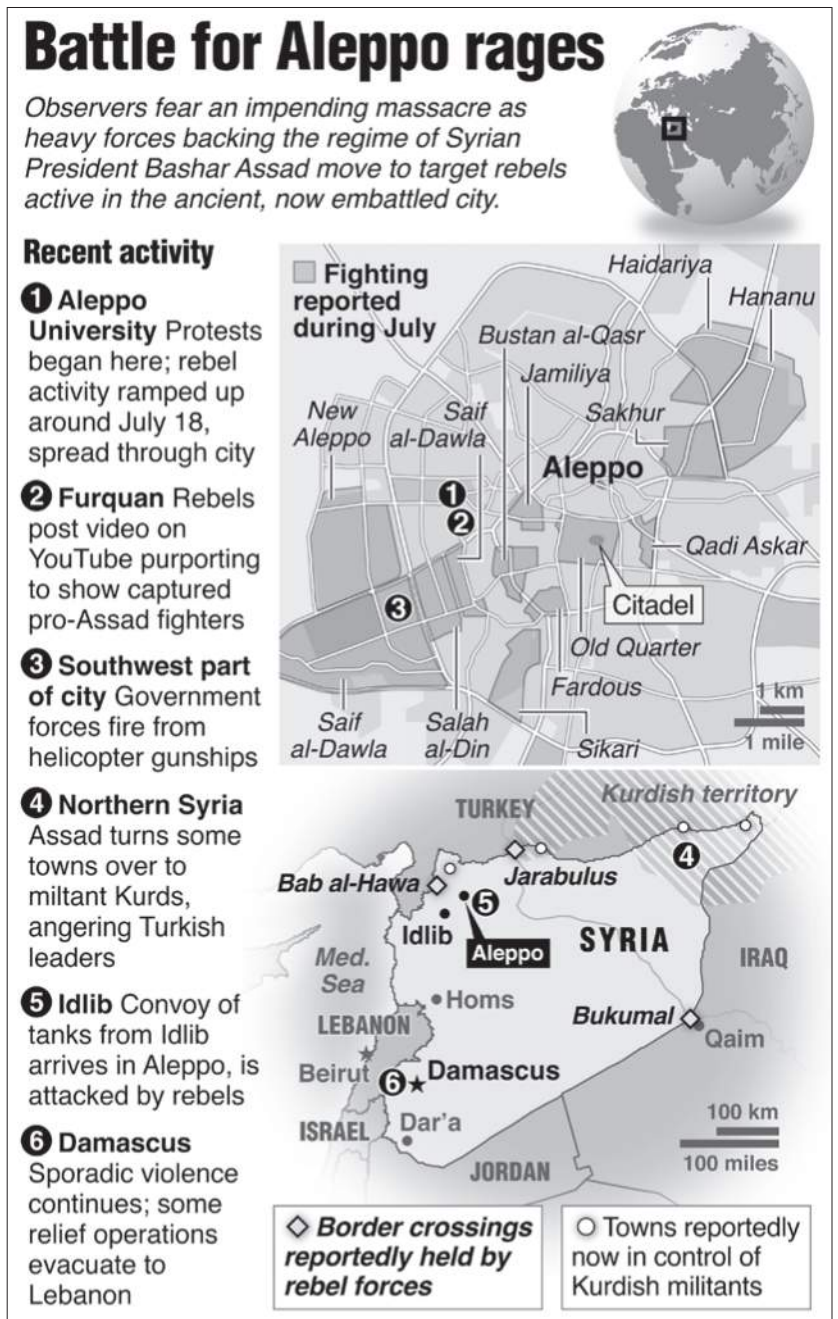
In a statement, the Arab League expressed "deep dissatisfaction for the Syrian regime's acts of oppression," particularly the use of heavy weapons against its own people. It urged Syria "to stop the cycle of killing and violence and lift the siege off the Syrian neighborhoods under attack."

The group's deputy chief, Ahmed Ben Hali added that the Arab states were preparing a resolution in front of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the creation of safe havens to protect civilians and to apply further sanctions on the regime.

Measures passed in the General Assembly are largely symbolic and not binding. The West and its Arab allies have been unable to pass effective resolutions in the more powerful Security Council. China, and especially Syria's close ally, Russia, have vetoed any attempt to sanction Bashar Assad's regime.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Saturday called the bloodshed in Aleppo a tragedy, but asked what else could the government do against the rebellion.

"Now the city of Aleppo is occupied by the armed opposition; another tragedy is imminent there," he said. "How can it be hoped that in such a situation the government will simply give in, say `Okay, I wasn't right, overthrow me, change the regime—it's simply unrealistic."


Battle for Aleppo rages
Observers fear an impending massacre as heavy forces backing the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad move to target rebels active in the ancient, now embattled city.
Recent activity
1 Aleppo University Protests began here; rebel activity ramped up around July 18, spread through city
2 Furquan Rebels post video on YouTube purporting to show captured pro-Assad fighters
3 Southwest part of city Government forces fire from helicopter gunships
4 Northern Syria Assad turns some towns over to miltant Kurds, angering Turkish leaders
5 Idlib Convoy of tanks from Idlib arrives in Aleppo, is attacked by rebels
6 Damascus Sporadic violence continues; some relief operations evacuate to Lebanon
Fighting reported during July
Haidariya
Hananu
Bustan al-Qasr
Jamiliya
New Aleppo
Saif al-Dawla
Sakhur
Aleppo
Qadi Askar
Citadel
Old Quarter
Fardous
Saif al-Dawla
Salah al-Din
Sikari
1 km
1 mile
TURKEY
Kurdish territory
Jarabulus
Bab al-Hawa
Idlib
Aleppo
SYRIA
IRAQ
Med. Sea
Homs
LEBANON
Bukumal
Qaim
Beirut
Damascus
ISRAEL
Dar'a
JORDAN
100 km
100 miles
◇ Border crossings reportedly held by rebel forces
○ Towns reportedly now in control of Kurdish militants
Syria's military
The CIA estimates Syria spent 5.9% of its 2005 GDP on its military, or about $3 billion. Statistics from before the rebellion began:
• In 2002, Syrian army comprised of 215,000 soldiers
• Also that year, the air force had 25 combat squadrons, eight for ground attack and 17 for interception
• Navy includes 4,000 personnel; two Petya III class frigates
MIG-21 fighter-bomber
About 220 of these
Source: AP, BBC, GlobalSecurity.org, Reuters
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2012 MCT

Officials: Ebola breaks out in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—The deadly Ebola virus has killed 14 people in western Uganda this month, Ugandan health officials said on Saturday, ending weeks of speculation about the cause of a strange disease that had many people fleeing their homes.

The officials and a World Health Organization representative told a news conference in Kampala Saturday that there is "an outbreak of Ebola" in Uganda.

"Laboratory investigations done at the Uganda Virus Research Institute... have confirmed that the strange disease reported in Kibaale is indeed Ebola hemorrhagic fever," the Ugandan government and WHO said in joint statement.

Kibaale is a district in midwestern Uganda, where people in recent weeks have been troubled by a mysterious illness that seemed to have come from nowhere. Ugandan health officials had been stumped as well, and spent weeks conducting laboratory tests that were at first inconclusive.

On Friday, Joaquim Saweka, the WHO representative in Uganda, told The Associated Press that investigators were "not so sure" it was Ebola, and a Ugandan health official dismissed the possibility of Ebola as merely a rumor. It appears firm evidence of Ebola was clinched overnight.

Health officials told reporters in Kampala that the 14 dead were among 20 reported with the disease. Two of the infected have been isolated for examination by researchers and health officials. A clinical officer and, days later, her 4-month-old baby died from the disease caused by the Ebola virus, officials said.

Officials urged Ugandans to be calm, saying a national emergency taskforce had been set up to stop the disease from spreading far and wide.

There is no cure or vaccine for Ebola, and in Uganda, where in 2000 the disease killed 224 people and left hundreds more traumatized, it resurrects terrible memories. There have been isolated cases since, such as in 2007 when an outbreak of a new strain of Ebola killed at least 37 people in Bundibugyo, a remote district close to the Congolese border, but none as deadly as in 2000.

Ebola, which manifests itself as a hemorrhagic fever, is highly infectious and kills quickly. It was first reported in 1976 in Congo and is named for the river where it was recognized, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A CDC factsheet on Ebola says the disease is "characterized by fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, sore throat, and weakness, followed by diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain. A rash, red eyes, hiccups and internal and external bleeding may be seen in some patients."

Scientists don't know the natural reservoir of the virus, but they suspect the first victim in an Ebola outbreak gets infected through contact with an infected animal, such as a monkey.

The virus can be transmitted through direct contact with the blood or secretions of an infected person, or objects that have been contaminated with infected secretions. During communal funerals, for example, when the bereaved come into contact with an Ebola victim, the virus can be contracted, officials said, warning against unnecessary contact with suspected cases of Ebola.

In Kibaale, some villagers had started abandoning their homes in recent weeks to escape what they thought was an illness that had something to do with bad luck, because people were quickly falling ill and dying, and there was no immediate explanation, officials said.

Egypt's president faces backlash from allies

CAIRO (AP)—An alliance of pro-democracy advocates on Saturday criticized Egypt's new Islamist president for unilaterally choosing a prime minister with no track record, while leading without transparency and alienating political groups with liberal leanings.

The National Front alliance—an umbrella group of democracy advocates, secularists and moderate Islamists behind the uprising that drove longtime authoritarian ruler Hosni Mubarak from power last year—said Mohammed Morsi has reneged on campaign promises to form a national unity government.

On Tuesday, Morsi surprised the country by choosing an unknown technocrat and former water minister, Hesham Kandil, as his prime minister. Many advocates see Kandil, a U.S.-educated engineer in his 40s, as a political lightweight.

The new government faces a mounting crisis amid alarming lawlessness, a flagging economy, and public frustration. Hospitals have come under attack by angry Egyptians, while demonstrators block roads in frustration over frequent power outages and a lack of running water. Labor strikes are widespread.

Morsi picked Kandil a month after assuming his post as Egypt's first elected civilian president. Observers say the delay reflected hesitation by Morsi and his group the Muslim Brotherhood to reach out to strong consensus figures.

In a news conference, the Front said Morsi's decision-making "lacks transparency and clarity," creating "a clouded political scene." They reminded the president of his debt to allies who supported him last month in the decisive round of voting, helping him beat old-guard rival Ahmed Shafiq.

In return for the support, Morsi, a former leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, had pledged inclusiveness. In a meeting with the Front last month, he said he would choose an independent, nationalist politician to be Egypt's prime minister.

"It was surprising that the person named ... didn't meet the criteria and this is the first indicator of the path we are taking," said Heba Raouf, a moderate Islamist political science professor and a member of the Front. She said talks over the new government were held "behind closed doors."

Focus

AP

In this March 5, 2012 file photo, President Barack Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

US sees Israel, tight Mideast ally, as SPY THREAT

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CIA station chief opened the locked box containing the sensitive equipment he used from his home in Tel Aviv, Israel, to communicate with CIA headquarters in Virginia, only to find that someone had tampered with it. He sent word to his superiors about the break-in.

The incident, described by three former senior U.S. intelligence officials, might have been dismissed as just another cloak-and-dagger incident in the world of international espionage, except that the same thing had happened to the previous station chief in Israel.

It was a not-so-subtle reminder that, even in a country friendly to the United States, the CIA was itself being watched.

In a separate episode, according to another two former U.S. officials, a CIA officer in Israel came home to find the food in the refrigerator had been rearranged. In all the cases, the U.S. government believes Israel's security services were responsible. Such meddling underscores what is widely known but rarely discussed outside intelligence circles: Despite inarguable ties between the U.S. and its closest ally in the Middle East and despite statements from U.S. politicians trumpeting the friendship, U.S. national security officials consider Israel to be, at times, a frustrating ally and a genuine counterintelligence threat.

In addition to what the former U.S. officials described as intrusions in homes in the past decade, Israel has been implicated in U.S. criminal espionage cases and disciplinary proceedings against CIA officers and blamed in the presumed death of an important spy in Syria for the CIA during the administration of President George W. Bush.

The CIA considers Israel its No. 1 counterintelligence threat in the agency's Near East Division, the group that oversees spying across the Middle East, according to current and former officials. Counterintelligence is the art of protecting national secrets from spies. This means the CIA believes that U.S. national secrets are safer from other Middle Eastern governments than from Israel.

Israel employs highly sophisticated, professional spy services that rival American agencies in technical capability and recruiting human sources. Unlike Iran or Syria, for example, Israel as a steadfast U.S. ally enjoys access to the highest levels of the U.S. government in military and intelligence circles.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk publicly about the sensitive intelligence and diplomatic issues between the two countries.

The counterintelligence worries continue even as the U.S. relationship with Israel features close cooperation on intelligence programs that reportedly included the Stuxnet computer virus that attacked computers in Iran's main nuclear enrichment facilities. While the alliance is central to the U.S. approach in the Middle East, there is room for intense disagreement, especially in the diplomatic turmoil over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"It's a complicated relationship," said Joseph Wippl, a former senior CIA clandestine officer and head of the agency's office of congressional affairs. "They have their interests. We have our interests. For the U.S., it's a balancing act."

The way Washington characterizes its relationship with Israel is also important to the way the U.S. is regarded by the rest of the world, particularly Muslim countries.

U.S. political praise has reached a crescendo ahead of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's scheduled meeting Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. Their relationship spans decades, since their brief overlap in the 1970s at the Boston Consulting Group. Both worked as advisers for the firm early in their careers before Romney co-founded his own private-equity firm. Romney said in a speech this past week that Israel was "one of our fondest friends," and he criticized Obama for what he called the administration's "shabby treatment" of the Jewish state.

"The people of Israel deserve better than what they've received from the leader of the free world," Romney said in a plain appeal to U.S. Jewish and pro-Israel evangelical voters.

Obama, who last year was overheard appearing to endorse criticism of Netanyahu from then-French President Nicolas Sarkozy, has defended his work with Israel. "We've gotten a lot of business done with Israel over the last three years," Obama said this year. "I think the prime minister—and certainly the defense minister—would acknowledge that we've never had closer military and intelligence cooperation."

An Israeli spokesman in Washington, Lior Weintraub, said his country has close ties with the U.S. A text message Saturday from the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the report "false."

"Israel's intelligence and security agencies maintain close, broad and continuous cooperation with their U.S. counterparts," Weintraub said. "They are our partners in confronting many mutual challenges. Any suggestion otherwise is baseless and contrary to the spirit and practice of the security cooperation between our two countries."

The CIA declined comment.

The tension exists on both sides.

The National Security Agency historically has kept tabs on Israel. The U.S., for instance, does not want to be caught off guard if Israel launches a surprise attack that could plunge the region into war and jeopardize oil supplies, putting American soldiers at risk.

Matthew Aid, the author of "The Secret Sentry," about the NSA, said the U.S. started spying on Israel even before the state was created in 1948. Aid said the U.S. had a station on Cyprus dedicated to spying on Israel until 1974. Today, teams of Hebrew linguists are stationed at Fort Meade, Md., at the NSA, listening to intercepts of Israeli communications, he said.

CIA policy generally forbids its officers in Tel Aviv from recruiting Israeli government sources, officials said. To do so would require approval from senior CIA leaders, two former senior officials said. During the Bush administration, the approval had to come from the White House.

Israel is not America's closest ally, at least when it comes to whom Washington trusts with the most sensitive national security information. That distinction belongs to a group of nations known informally as the "Five Eyes." Under that umbrella, the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand agree to share intelligence and not to spy on one another. Often, U.S. intelligence officers work directly alongside counterparts from these countries to handle highly classified information not shared with anyone else.

Israel is part of a second-tier relationship known by another informal name, "Friends on Friends." It comes from the phrase "Friends don't spy on friends," and the arrangement dates back decades. But Israel's foreign intelligence service, the Mossad, and its FBI equivalent, the Shin Bet, both considered among the best in the world, have been suspected of recruiting U.S. officials and trying to steal American secrets.

Around 2004 or 2005, the CIA fired two female officers for having unreported contact with Israelis. One of the women acknowledged during a polygraph exam that she had been in a relationship with an Israeli who worked in the Foreign Ministry, a former U.S. official said. The CIA learned the Israeli introduced the woman to his "uncle." That person worked for Shin Bet.

Jonathan Pollard, who worked for the Navy as a civilian intelligence analyst, was convicted of spying for Israel in 1987 when the Friends on Friends agreement was in effect. He was sentenced to life in prison. The Israelis for years have tried to win his release. In January 2011, Netanyahu asked Obama to free Pollard and acknowledged that Israel's actions in the case were "wrong and wholly unacceptable."

Ronald Olive, a former senior supervisor with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service who investigated Pollard, said that after the arrest, the U.S. formed a task force to determine what government records Pollard had taken. Olive said Israel turned over so few that it represented "a speck in the sand."

In the wake of Pollard, the Israelis promised not to operate intelligence agents on U.S. soil.

A former Army mechanical engineer, Ben-Ami Kadish, pleaded guilty in 2008 to passing classified secrets to the Israelis during the 1980s. His case officer was the same one who handled Pollard. Kadish let the Israelis photograph documents about nuclear weapons, a modified version of an F-15 fighter jet and the U.S. Patriot missile air defense system. Kadish, who was 85 years old when he was arrested, avoided prison and was ordered to pay a $50,000 fine. He told the judge that, "I thought I was helping the state of Israel without harming the United States."

In 2006, a former Defense Department analyst was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison for giving classified information to an Israeli diplomat and two pro-Israel lobbyists.

Despite the Pollard case and others, Olive said he believes the two countries need to maintain close ties "but do we still have to be vigilant? Absolutely. The Israelis are good at what they do."

During the Bush administration, the CIA ranked some of the world's intelligence agencies in order of their willingness to help in the U.S.-led fight against terrorism. One former U.S. intelligence official who saw the completed list said Israel, which hadn't been directly targeted in attacks by al-Qaida, fell below Libya, which recently had agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

The espionage incidents have done little to slow the billions of dollars in money and weapons from the United States to Israel. Since Pollard's arrest, Israel has received more than $60 billion in U.S. aid, mostly in the form of military assistance, according to the Congressional Research Service. The U.S. has supplied Israel with Patriot missiles, helped pay for an anti-missile defense program and provided sensitive radar equipment to track Iranian missile threats.

Just on Friday, Obama said he was releasing an additional $70 million in military aid, a previously announced move that appeared timed to upstage Romney's trip, and he spoke of America's "unshakable commitment to Israel." The money will go to help Israel expand production of a short-range rocket defense system.

Some CIA officials still bristle over the disappearance of a Syrian scientist who during the Bush administration was the CIA's only spy inside Syria's military program to develop chemical and biological weapons. The scientist was providing the agency with extraordinary information about pathogens used in the program, former U.S. officials said about the previously unknown intelligence operation.

At the time, there was pressure to share information about weapons of mass destruction, and the CIA provided its intelligence to Israel. A former official with direct knowledge of the case said details about Syria's program were published in the media. Although the CIA never formally concluded that Israel was responsible, CIA officials complained to Israel about their belief that Israelis were leaking the information to pressure Syria to abandon the program. The Syrians pieced together who had access to the sensitive information and eventually identified the scientist as a traitor.

Before he disappeared and was presumed killed, the scientist told his CIA handler that Syrian Military Intelligence was focusing on him.

Health & Fitness

Aging AIDS epidemic raises new health questions

WASHINGTON (AP)—AIDS is graying. By the end of the decade, the government estimates, more than half of Americans living with HIV will be over 50. Even in developing countries, more people with the AIDS virus are surviving to middle age and beyond.

That's good news—but it's also a challenge. There's growing evidence that people who have spent decades battling the virus may be aging prematurely. At the International AIDS Conference this week, numerous studies are examining how heart disease, thinning bones and a list of other health problems typically seen in the senior years seem to hit many people with HIV when they're only in their 50s.

"I'm 54, but I feel older," said Carolyn Massey of Laurel, Md., who has lived with HIV for nearly 20 years.

"When I hear young people talk about, `Well you get HIV and you take your drugs and you'll be all right'—that's just not the truth," she said. "This is a lifelong thing we're talking about, and it unfolds every day on you."

The graying isn't just because people like Massey are surviving longer. Some of it comes from older adults being newly diagnosed, a trend U.S. health officials say is small but slowly growing. Yes, grandparents still have sex—and that's an age group missed by all those hip safe-sex messages aimed at teens and 20-somethings.

"They let down their guard," is how Dr. Kevin Fenton of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts it.

Already, a third of the nearly 1.2 million people living with HIV in the U.S. are over 50, and by 2020 half will be, Fenton said at one of numerous sessions on aging at the world's largest AIDS meeting.

AP

In this photo taken July 25, 2012, Stephen Karpiak, with the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America, left, and Carolyn Massey, 54, of Laurel, Md., who has HIV, wait for the start of a panel, "Aging With HIV," that they are speaking on at the International AIDS Conference in Washington. AIDS is graying: By the end of the decade, the government estimates, more than half of Americans living with HIV will be over 50. Even in developing countries, more people with the AIDS virus are surviving to middle age and beyond.

People 50 or older accounted for 17 percent of new HIV diagnoses in 2009, according to the CDC's latest data. That's up from 13 percent in 2001.

There aren't as good counts in poor regions of the world, where access to life-saving medications came years later than in developed countries.

But even in hard-hit sub-Saharan Africa, home to most of world's HIV-infected population, studies suggest 3 million people living with HIV are 50-plus, said Dr. Joel Negin of the University of Sydney in Australia. By 2040, he said, that could reach 9 million.

There, challenges are different. Ruth Waryaro of Kenya, addressing the conference on her 65th birthday, said clinic workers hassle her when she goes to pick up her monthly supply of medication—not believing a grandmother really needs it.

"If you're not strong enough, you just leave the medication and go home," said Waryaro, who raised four children of her own and now is raising four AIDS orphans. She also has diabetes and high blood pressure.

As Negin pointedly told the conference, "50 is not old." But for years, world health authorities didn't even measure HIV in people beyond age 49.

Today, people who are diagnosed and treated early can expect a near-normal life-span, Dr. Anthony Fauci, infectious disease chief at the National Institutes of Health, told The Associated Press.

The new focus is on what these pioneering survivors can expect as they reach their 50s, 60s and beyond. They're now getting chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and osteoporosis—some of the common ailments when anyone gets old. But studies suggest people with HIV may be at higher risk for some of those illnesses, or get them earlier than usual.

"It's almost created a new subspecialty of medicine," Fauci said.

Perhaps the strongest evidence links HIV and an increased risk of heart disease. Some AIDS medications raise that risk. But in research published for the AIDS meeting, scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital uncovered another reason.

They scanned the arteries of people with and without HIV, and found the HIV patients had more inflammation inside their arteries, putting them at risk for the kind of clots that trigger heart attacks. That's even though the HIV patients had their virus well-controlled and weren't that old—their average age was 52, the researchers reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

HIV triggers body-wide inflammation as a person's immune system tries to fight the virus, a process that persists and can quietly damage organs even with good medications, CDC's Fenton said.

HIV is not acting in a vacuum, said Dr. Amy Justice of Yale University, noting that people's histories of smoking, for example, also contribute to inflammation.

But she pointed to data from a Veterans Affairs study that said older people with HIV use more medications for other diseases than HIV-free patients the same age.

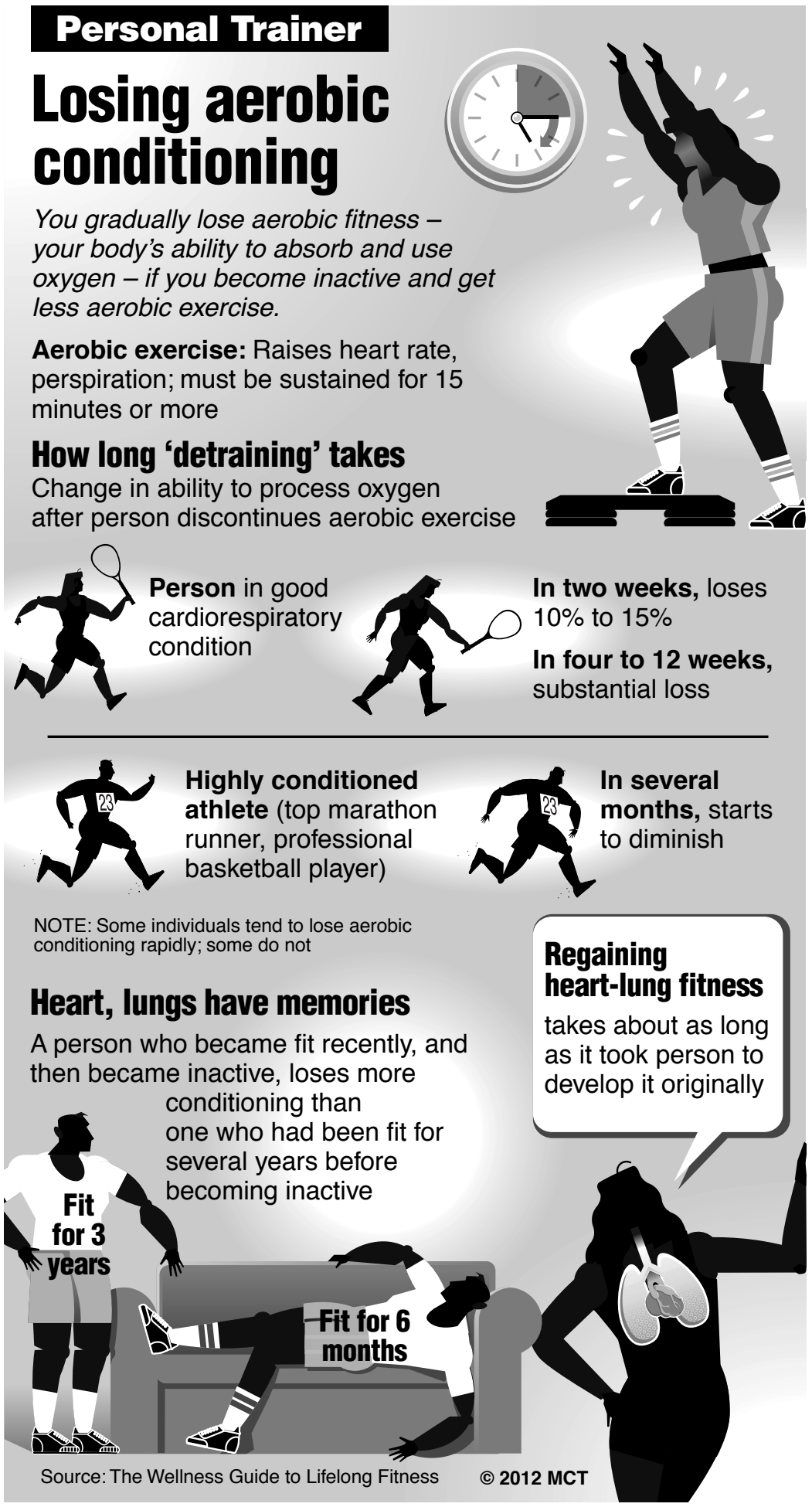
At the conference, some older people with HIV lined up to have their photographs made and their personal histories recorded, part of a Web project called "The Graying of AIDS."

It's a chance to be counted, and share knowledge.

"We're so concerned about the youth factor, we forget about the people who've brought us thus far," said Massey, the Maryland woman, who leads an HIV group called Older Women Embracing Life and works with churches to raise HIV awareness.

CDC's Fenton noted that those voices can help other older adults realize they're at risk, when they're getting back onto the dating scene after years of monogamous relationships. Older people don't use condoms as much as younger people.

"We still have this huge issue with stigma so thick you can cut it with a knife," says Massey, who also wants HIV testing to become a routine part of health check-ups. "We have to normalize the conversation."


Personal Trainer
Losing aerobic conditioning
You gradually lose aerobic fitness – your body's ability to absorb and use oxygen – if you become inactive and get less aerobic exercise.
Aerobic exercise: Raises heart rate, perspiration; must be sustained for 15 minutes or more
How long 'detraining' takes
Change in ability to process oxygen after person discontinues aerobic exercise
Person in good cardiorespiratory condition
In two weeks, loses 10% to 15%
In four to 12 weeks, substantial loss
Highly conditioned athlete (top marathon runner, professional basketball player)
In several months, starts to diminish
NOTE: Some individuals tend to lose aerobic conditioning rapidly; some do not
Heart, lungs have memories
A person who became fit recently, and then became inactive, loses more conditioning than one who had been fit for several years before becoming inactive
Fit for 3 years
Fit for 6 months
Regaining heart-lung fitness
takes about as long as it took person to develop it originally
Source: The Wellness Guide to Lifelong Fitness
© 2012 MCT

Life & Style

Queen tours Olympic Park after debut as Bond Girl

LONDON (AP)—Fresh from her star turn as the latest Bond Girl, Queen Elizabeth II returned to Olympic Park for an encore Saturday, while the usually biting British press gave a resounding review: We are amused.

The queen visited with fawning British Olympians in the athletes village and rode to the top of the 377-foot (115-meter) Orbit tower beside the stadium, where on Friday night she officially opened the 2012 Games. Her husband, Prince Philip, and London Mayor Boris Johnson accompanied her.

Dressed in a royal blue silk dress, crepe coat and matching hat, the queen could be heard remarking at the views of the London skyline and countryside. She wore a brooch given to her in 1948—the last time London hosted the Olympics and four years before her accession to the throne.

In describing her role in the opening ceremony, created by director Danny Boyle, Johnson said the queen had told him she was "very, very impressed with the success of her first film appearance, her first dramatic venture. It was very funny and seems to have gone down particularly well with the international audiences."

And, it seems, with the British media.

The Guardian called the queen's appearance "one of the highlights of Danny Boyle's tumultuously inventive opening ceremony of the 2012 Games. ... Now, thanks to Boyle, we really have seen everything."

"I was worried that there was too much self-parody, that the world might be laughing at us," wrote columnist Giles Coren in The Times of London. "But they were laughing with us. They were silently awed."

The show-stopping moment featured the queen making her acting debut alongside Daniel Craig, who portrayed James Bond in a film beamed into the stadium.

Boyle's production showed Bond striding into Buckingham Palace to escort his VIP guest to the Olympic ceremony. Many had expected a famous actress to play the role of the queen, and there was an audible gasped as the real-life royal was seen to swivel round in her desk chair and declare: "Good evening, Mr. Bond."

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the 86-year-old monarch agreed last year to participate. The filming took place at the palace in March and April and featured two of the queen's corgi dogs: Monty and Holly.

At the end of the film segment, two stuntmen dressed as Bond and the queen parachuted from a helicopter into the stadium, and moments later Elizabeth and Philip emerged in the stands.

Boyle told NBC television that the queen had been a natural. "You don't have to tell her something twice," he said. "She picks it up straight away, about cameras and angles."

The sequence has already provided the defining images of the games, according to the Daily Telegraph in Australia, where the queen also reigns.

"A few hundred years ago director Danny Boyle could have been sent to the Tower for even suggesting such treason," the Sydney newspaper said. "But as if to show how far England and the monarchy have come in that time, Her Majesty not only let Boyle get away with it. She was actually in on the joke."

The German newspaper Die Welt wrote that "often seen as reserved and unapproachable, the queen changed all that alongside James Bond."

The queen offered more surprises Saturday as she met about 150 members of the British Olympic team. Spectators took in the scene from balconies draped in Union Jack flags.

AP

Queen Elizabeth II meets athlete Nick Willis and other members of the New Zealand Olympic team, as she tours the Athletes Village dining hall at the Olympic Park, in London, Saturday July 28, 2012.

Olympic opener showed music is best of British

LONDON (AP)—It's not a concert, Danny Boyle stressed. It's about the athletes.

In a very real way, though, the director of the Olympic opening ceremony was wrong.

While sports are the heart of the Olympics, music—loud, bold, world-conquering British music, amplified in the most global of settings—was the booming beat Friday night.

One of Boyle's stated aims was to showcase "the best of us"—and ever since the Beatles and the Rolling Stones appropriated American blues, country and rock and remade them into something new, the best of British has been music.

Music ran like a river through Boyle's "Isles of Wonder" extravaganza, which depicted a Britain brutally wrenched from its rural past by industrialization and upheaval before being thrust into a fast, uncertain, exciting new world—all propelled by the throb of homegrown music.

It began gently, with Edward Elgar, the hymn "Jerusalem" and "Danny Boy"—but soon started to rock.

Olympic ceremonies often play it safe. But Boyle, who brought in the electronic duo Underworld as musical directors, gave his show a cheeky edge. The Sex Pistols, once the outrageous face of punk, were included with their song "Pretty Vacant." Boyle even slipped in a few bars of the Pistols' snarling "God Save the Queen" ("the fascist regime") early on—although he respectfully did it before Queen Elizabeth II herself had entered the stadium.

Fashion designer Wayne Hemingway said including the Pistols was typical of Boyle's "wit and guts."

AP

Dizzee Rascal performs during the Opening Ceremony at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Friday, July 27, 2012, in London.

"Normally it would be brushed over, but the punk spirit which is in Britain was written through the ceremony," he said. "Anyone cynical about this has no lust for life. It's just bloody brilliant."

In parts, it was like a Union Jack jukebox—a medley of tracks from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, David Bowie and Queen, the Specials and the Jam, the Stone Roses and Eurythmics, and what seemed like dozens more.

The list spanned generations, from The Who's "My Generation" right up to live performances from two of the hottest homegrown acts of the moment: grime star Dizzee Rascal—who performed his hit "Bonkers"—singer Emeli Sande and the band Arctic Monkeys.

The musical melange continued during the athletes parade, with members of the 204 national teams circling the track to everything from "West End Girls" by the Pet Shop Boys and "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele.

The British squad entered to a roar of applause—and Bowie's anthem-like "Heroes," while Pink Floyd played during the fireworks display.

It was only fitting that a former Beatle, Paul McCartney, closed the show, leading a mass singalong of "Hey Jude."

The amazing thing about the outpouring was how endless it seemed—a reminder that British music, decade after decade, has retained its genius.

Could any other country have pulled off a similar homegrown aural feast? The United States, certainly. But Boyle reminded Britain how much it has to be proud of—and the clapping, cheering, singing 60,000-strong crowd loved him for it.

Broadcast to a television audience estimated at 1 billion, it played like an excellent ad for Cool Britannia 2.0.

Singer-songwriter Billy Bragg spoke for many when he tweeted: "Impressive though (the opening ceremony) in Beijing was, they didn't have any great pop music to play, did they?"

Olympic viewing: NBC sets opening ceremony record

NEW YORK (AP)—A look at media coverage of the London Olympics:

An opening ceremony from the mother country with a Beatle, a queen and Mr. Bean proved irresistible for viewers in the United States, with a record-setting 40.7 million people watching NBC's first night of summer Olympics coverage.

The Nielsen company said Saturday that London's opener was the most-watched opening ceremony of any summer or winter Olympics. It topped the previous mark of 39.8 million people who watched the 1996 Atlanta Olympics begin, and the 34.9 million who watched the colorful first night from Beijing four years ago.

The London ceremony featured an unusual made-for-TV stunt featuring actor Daniel Craig portraying James Bond escorting the real-life Queen Elizabeth II to the ceremony and ended with Paul McCartney's anthemic "Hey Jude." But according to Twitter, the biggest spike in tweets came when actor Rowan Atkinson ("Mr. Bean") appeared in a "Chariots of Fire" homage.

An estimated 5 million comments about the opening ceremony were made on social media, according to the research company Bluefin Labs. It was more interesting to women, apparently, as 58 percent of the comments were from women and 42 percent from men, Bluefin said.

It was the most-watched television event in the U.S. since the winter, when 39.9 million people watched the Grammy Awards and 39.3 million saw the Oscars.

The results were a good sign for NBC and broadcast TV in general, which is increasingly finding that big events draw people to the screen more than regular entertainment programming - most likely encouraged by multi-screen experiences, or people conversing through social media while watching television.

NBC Universal also earned a measure of redemption from critics. The company, which began streaming all of the Olympics competition online live Saturday, was blistered on Twitter on Friday by people who wondered why the opening ceremony wasn't shown live (it was aired on NBC on tape delay, because London's time zone is five hours ahead of the eastern United States). But four years ago in Beijing, NBC learned such complaints only increased buzz and made people more interested in watching it on TV in prime time.

"The audience number for the London opening ceremony is a great early sign that our strategy of driving people to watch NBC in prime time is working," said Mark Lazarus, chairman of the NBC Sports Group.

But in an increasingly wired world, that strategy is becoming a source of controversy for NBC. Twitter was alight again Saturday with complaints against the network for not televising live the men's 400-meter swimming race that American Ryan Lochte won, with Michael Phelps finishing fourth.

Prominent media critic Jeff Jarvis called it "ludicrous" that NBC was airing promotions for the race when it was easy for anyone to quickly find the results on the computer. Others were angry to learn the results on NBC's "Nightly News" before the prime-time telecast. A further aggravation was the telecast itself, including lengthy features with John McEnroe and Lochte, and Ryan Seacrest with Phelps, simply emphasizing that NBC was pumping up a race that had already been run.

The network aired the race live Saturday afternoon on its Web site. NBC has been adamant about saving the highest-profile television events for prime time, when it has its largest audience. Because of the time difference, there are no live events for NBC to show during prime time.

Charlie Sheen sitcom poised for 90-episode pickup

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Charlie Sheen says he's not insane anymore.

Instead, these are good days for the "Anger Management" star, he declares, with his FX sitcom half-way through its initial 10-episode run and poised to get an order for 90 more.

Sheen told reporters Saturday that the prospect of continuing is as "exciting as hell," and added cheerily, "I don't think 90's gonna be enough."

With the expected pickup, FX plans to bring aboard Sheen's dad, Martin Sheen, as a recurring cast member. He will play the father of Charlie Goodson, the anger-management therapist played by Charlie Sheen. The veteran movie actor, who also played President Jed Bartlet on the drama series "The West Wing," is guest-starring on an "Anger Management" episode that airs Aug. 16.

"I think that was the best episode we did," his son said.

Adding Sheen's father to the series "will give an extra dimension and make it a multi-generational family show," FX boss John Landgraf said in making the announcement.

The production schedule would call for filming a total of 100 episodes in just two years. This kind of cost-saving routine means no time for rehearsals, said executive producer Bruce Helford.

"The actors get the lines, we see the scene, the writers make changes, the actors go to makeup, cameras are blocked, we come back together and shoot the scene," he explained.

At first, the cast members "felt like basically they were on the ledge. But by the third episode, everyone found the characters to the point that the writers were following their lead," Helford said.

"I feel like how we started, we just scratched the surface—barely," said Sheen, who arrived for his appearance at the Television Critics Association session clad in Bermuda shorts, a long-sleeve shirt and loafers without socks.

He likened his tumultuous departure from "Two and a Half Men" and the stormy aftermath last year to a dream he couldn't wake up from. Or like "a train I couldn't get off of, except that I was the conductor," he added, speaking in quick bursts and fidgeting in his chair.

He said he learned a lot from that period, including "stick to what you know." Referring to his disastrous "My Violent Torpedo of Truth/Defeat is Not an Option" tour in spring 2011, he got laughs from the group when he advised, "Don't go on the road with a one-man show in 21 cities without an act. "

"I'm not insane anymore," he summed up.

What's different now from Sheen's angry stretch on "Men," characterized by his much-publicized clashes with series creator Chuck Lorre?

Helford weighed in with a theory. On "Men," he ventured, "Charlie didn't really have a voice with creative input. It wasn't built that way."

On "Anger Management," Helford said he's forged a partnership with his star.

"We built this together," he said. "And when Charlie's on the stage, that's his stage. When you feel that, your creative juices are flowing, everything is better for you, because you have a say in what you're doing.

"When you don't control your destiny, things get screwed up in your head," he said as Sheen nodded.

On "Anger Management," Charlie Goodson thrives on chaos. Sheen was asked if he does, too, or if he longs for a simpler life.

"I can wish every minute for a simple life. It's not gonna happen," Sheen replied. "But I don't really look at it as chaos. I look at it as challenges."

AP

This June 26, 2012 file photo shows actor Charlie Sheen attending the FX Summer Comedies Party at Lure in Los Angeles.

HBO doc tells behind-the-scenes stories of models

AP

This July 18, 2012 photo shows models China Machado, Ifrom left, Kim Alexis and Beverly Johnson in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—There was a time when models really were super. Cindy Crawford, Christie Brinkley, Claudia Schiffer and Nikki Taylor were household names, plastered on magazine covers, dominating advertisements.

Now that every model is called a supermodel, the list of recognizable names is much smaller and mostly retired. Giselle. Heidi Klum. Anyone else?

"The covers have been taken over by the celebrities and all of the makeup and hair ads have been taken over by celebrities," model Kim Alexis said in a recent interview, "And we want our jobs back."

The new HBO documentary "About Face: Supermodels Then and Now" documents the rise of these models from the `40s through the `80s, when Alexis said "You would see me on the cover of Glamour and Vogue and Mademoiselle and also doing a Cover Girl ad and a Maybelline ad all in the same magazine."

The documentary premieres Monday and shares the models' personal career and beauty stories.

Director Timothy Greenfield-Sanders said he came up with the idea for the documentary at a party for supermodels from the `70s and `80s.

"I walked into a party that my friend was giving and I looked around the room and saw these gorgeous women and thought, `Geez, that's a photo or something. No one's shot them in a while it would be an interesting group shot.' And as I got to know them I thought, `Oh, this is obviously a film.'"

"About Face" also introduces viewers to a time when modeling wasn't glamorous, says Greenfield, like when Carmen Dell'Orefice began modeling in the 1940s. She began modeling as a teen and is still modeling today at 81 years old.

"Carmen talked about how (modeling) was really not a profession you'd ever want your child to go into, and that changed and by the time models became celebrities and then parents thought, `Oh, this is a good profession for my daughter.' That's a big change in 50 years."

The film also shows how even models worry about signs of aging like wrinkles and changes to their figure.

Karen Bjornson, who began modeling in the 1970s admits in the documentary that she had an eye lift before walking in a 2002 Ralph Rucci runway show.

Race was also once an issue in the industry.

China Machado, who also began modeling in the 1950s, is half Chinese, half Portuguese. She first found success as a house model in Europe where she would model clothing from fashion collections like Givenchy for prospective buyers.

It wasn't until she began modeling in the U.S. that her ethnicity became an issue.

"Harper's Bazaar publisher didn't want to publish my pictures because they thought subscribers in the South would all cancel."

Ironically she ended as their fashion editor from 1962 to 1972.

Beverly Johnson, who made history as the first black model to appear on the cover of American Vogue in 1974, believes the documentary will pull back the veil on the modeling industry in a way that hasn't been done before.

"I think that there will probably be two reactions. One is, `Those beautiful models, they're getting their due now. They're aging just like we are.' Or they're gonna say, `Wow, even she, the supermodel, are having the same angst I'm having about growing old.' I think you'll have those two dynamics going on."

Stars of 'Modern Family' reach contract deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The stars of "Modern Family" have reached new contracts to keep working on the Emmy-winning comedy, ending a dispute that had threatened to spill over into a courtroom.

A 20th Century Fox spokesman confirmed Friday evening that the deals had been reached and that shooting on the ABC series' fourth season will begin Monday.

The deals cover stars Sofia Vergara, Ed O'Neill, Julie Bowen, Ty Burrell, Eric Stonestreet and Jesse Tyler Ferguson.

Five of the actors sued Fox on Tuesday, asking a judge to rule their contracts on the hit show are illegal and should be invalidated. O'Neill joined the case later in the week.

Executive producer Christopher Lloyd said the lawsuit wouldn't have interfered with production but it is "great to have that not hanging over our head." He said there would be no ill will on the set because the situation was resolved quickly and the show has a "charmed setup."

"Modern Family," a popular comedy that airs on ABC, has won Emmy Awards for outstanding Comedy Series the past two years. Several of the stars, including Burrell, Bowen and Stonestreet have won individual Emmys for their work on the show.

The show was recently nominated for 14 Emmy Awards, the most of any sitcom.

The lawsuit, which claimed the actors' contracts were illegal because they bound them to the show for more than seven years, will be dropped. Exact terms of the deal were not released.

"The particular grounds for the lawsuit are debatable," Lloyd said. "It was a tactic in negotiations. I don't think it was ever taken that seriously.

AP

This Sept. 18, 2011 file photo shows Ty Burrell, left, Julie Bowen from the television series "Modern Family" holding their Emmys for best supporting and actress actress in a comedy, backstage at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Grace Keillor, mother of Garrison Keillor, dies

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (AP)—Grace Keillor, the mother of "A Prairie Home Companion" host Garrison Keillor, has died at age 97.

Garrison Keillor says his mother died Friday at her home in Minnesota "with her children around her holding her hand and singing hymns."

Keillor says his mother "had a good long life and was still lucid a couple weeks ago and even had a good laugh about a dream she had."

Grace Ruth Denham was born in Minneapolis on May 7, 1915. She married John Keillor in 1936, and the couple raised six children in a Brooklyn Park house that John Keillor built in 1947.

John Keillor died in 2001. Garrison Keillor says his mother stayed in the house, "entertaining her family, playing Scrabble, reading, singing hymns and praying for her loved ones."

Costas recalls Israel athletes killed at '72 Games

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's Bob Costas noted a controversy over honoring Israeli athletes killed at the Olympics 40 years ago during his coverage of the opening ceremony but stopped short of offering his own protest.

The International Olympic Committee had declined a request to hold a moment of silence during the ceremony to acknowledge the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches killed by Palestinian gunmen in Munich in 1972. Costas called that decision insensitive during an interview this month and indicated he would call for his own moment of silence when Israeli athletes marched into the Olympic Stadium on Friday.

Costas' comments took his bosses by surprise. Jim Bell, executive producer of the NBC's telecast, said this week that Costas hadn't brought it up with him before the interview.

As the athletes marched in Friday, Costas said that IOC President Jacques Rogge led a moment of silence for the late Israelis this week before about 100 people at the Athlete's Village.

AP

In this Nov. 22, 2009, file photo, Sportscaster Bob Costas is seen before an NFL football game between the Chicago Bears and Philadelphia Eagles in Chicago.

Snoop Dogg denied Norway entry for 2 years for pot

OSLO, Norway (AP)—A lawyer representing Snoop Dogg says the American rapper has been banned from entering Norway for two years after trying to enter the country with a small amount of marijuana last month.

Holger Hagesaeter, the rapper's legal representative in Norway, told The Associated Press on Saturday that his client "can live with the decision" and has no immediate plans to appeal it.

Snoop Dogg, whose name is Calvin Broadus, was on his way to a music festival in southern Norway in June when sniffer dogs detected eight grams of marijuana in his luggage. He was also carrying more cash than is legally allowed and was fined 52,000 kroner ($8,600) after admitting to the two offenses, the lawyer said.

Biel says Timberlake engagement is 'wonderful'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jessica Biel says that before Justin Timberlake proposed, she didn't expect to ever get married.

The 30-year-old actress told The Associated Press on Friday that she feels "wonderful" about the engagement. Biel and Timberlake, 31, reportedly became engaged late last year but rarely speak publicly about their relationship.

Biel called the engagement "wonderful. It's actually not anything I ever really thought was going to happen to me or that I really wanted. And when it happened it just seemed—it just was right."

No wedding date has been made public.

Biel is promoting "Total Recall," which also stars Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale and Bryan Cranston.

In this May 7, 2012, file photo, Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake arrive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit, celebrating Elsa Schiaparelli and Miuccia Prada in New York. AP

Emmy producer says memorial tribute a challenge

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The producer of this year's Emmy Awards said it's a challenge to decide who to include in the ceremony's memorial tribute.

About three-dozen stars and other industry notables typically are honored in the "in memoriam" segment, although many more are deserving, executive producer Don Mischer said Friday.

He said he and the TV academy identify the late actors and other TV notables who will create an "emotional response" among Emmy viewers. That drew a wry observation from Jimmy Kimmel, who will host the Sept. 23 awards on ABC.

"I love that even in death, you're subject to a popularity contest," Kimmel said.

Omissions typically are more an issue for the Oscars than the Emmys. But some viewers objected when the death of "Taxi" star Jeff Conaway wasn't noted in last year's Emmy tribute.

AP

Jimmy Kimmel, left, and Executive Producer Don Mischer attend the "64th Primetime Emmy Awards" panel at the Disney ABC TCA Day 2 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Friday, July 27, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Other than the host, the segment is consistently the audience's favorite part of the telecast, Mischer said told a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

He was asked if Andy Griffith, who died July 3 at age 86, would get special attention because of the actor's beloved 1960s comedy, "The Andy Griffith Show," and his subsequent long-running legal drama, "Matlock."

Juanes sings in support of fight against AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Colombian superstar Juanes agreed to headline a special concert as part of the International AIDS Conference to urge political leaders to step up the fight against the disease.

Juanes said Thursday that HIV-positive people "are stigmatized, rejected by society, and I think this is the moment to change the understanding of AIDS and how it should be treated and prevented."

The Latin sensation's comments came hours before he headlined the "Beat Goes On" concert at the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C. Juanes encouraged leaders to "continue supporting the cause" so that one day a cure can be found.

The International AIDS Conference was held for the first time in the U.S. since 1990, after President Obama lifted in 2010 the government's ban on travel and immigration to the U.S. of people who are HIV positive.

AP

Colombian singer Juanes warms up during a sound check before his concert in Washington, Thursday, July 26, 2012.

Around 34.2 million people worldwide and 1.2 million in the United States live with HIV or AIDS, according to the Henry K. Kaiser Family Foundation.

The concert benefited the nonprofit Lifebeat Music Fight HIV/AIDS, which aims to support the HIV/AIDS community and raise awareness about prevention.

Lifebeat has featured artists such as Alicia Keys, Puff Daddy and Gloria Estefan in concerts and events meant to encourage America's youth to have safe sex and get tested regularly.

Juanes received a gold record for his "MTV Unplugged" album in Mexico City. He has collaborated with artists like Juan Luis Guerra, Nelly Furtado and Tony Bennett.

The Grammy-award winning musician created in 2006 the Mi Sangre foundation, which provides social services to children victims of Colombia's violence.

Parents are not duty-bound to pay for daughter's wedding

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 46-year-old female being married for the second time. My first marriage took place 28 years ago and didn't cost my parents a penny because there was no wedding.

I would like to ask them to contribute financially this time to help with the cost of a small, intimate ceremony and dinner for fewer than 20 people. Am I asking too much?

SECOND TIME AROUND IN ORLANDO, FLA.

DEAR SECOND TIME AROUND: Yes. Couples on their "second bounce" pay for their OWN weddings. And by the way, there is no obligation on the part of the bride's parents to pay for her wedding even the first time around. A wedding is a GIFT, and to solicit a gift is inappropriate. If your parents volunteer to chip in for your wedding, then it's fine to accept. But don't ask them to do it. That you didn't have a wedding the first time around does not obligate them to pay for one now.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 38-year-old woman who has moved around my whole life. Because of this, I have no childhood friends who have carried over to adulthood. I am friendless and lonely for companionship. I have a husband and a son, but I long for a female friend I can chat with, shop with or just sit with and be around.

I have tried meeting new people at the park with my son, and I felt like I hit it off with a few people, but they all (at this age) already have dear friends and don't seem interested in changing their circles. Am I destined to be lonely?

JUST ME IN TENNESSEE

DEAR JUST ME: I don't know how much free time you have on your hands, but you need to meet more people than the women at the park. If you have become isolated waiting for someone to rescue you from your loneliness, please understand that the cure for loneliness is to DO something.

Volunteer at a school, museum, hospital, library or food bank. Join a garden club, bridge club or book club. Look around and see if you can find any other lonely people and turn them into friends. If you pick up the phone, you will find it rings on both ends.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My dad and I were very close. He would tease me about being a tightwad and I'd tease him about being a spendthrift. When he passed away last year, I was—and still am—devastated.

I recently visited the library and, while looking at some books for sale, I found one by an author I like. I said to myself that if I had the correct amount of change in my purse, I could buy it guilt-free. Unfortunately, I was a few cents short.

As I turned to put the book back on the shelf, I spotted a dime on the floor. Like the writers of the "pennies from heaven" letters you have shared, I am certain that the dime was from my dad, who was essentially buying the book for me. I purchased it and will treasure it always.

GRATEFUL DAUGHTER

DEAR GRATEFUL: What a sweet letter. I hope you will enjoy the book for years to come. It speaks "volumes" about your relationship with your dad.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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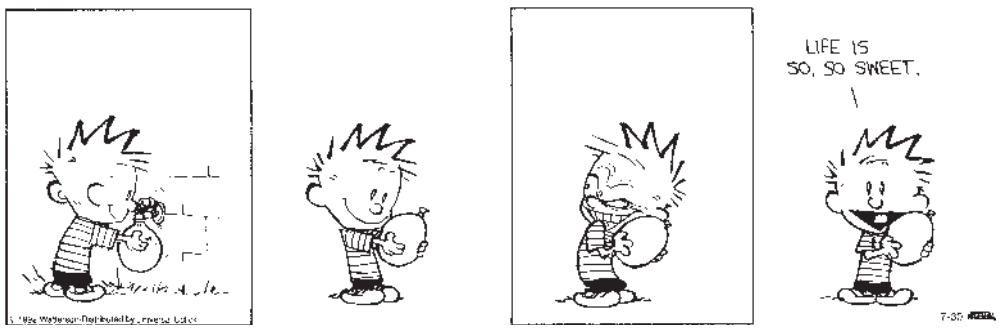
Pastimes

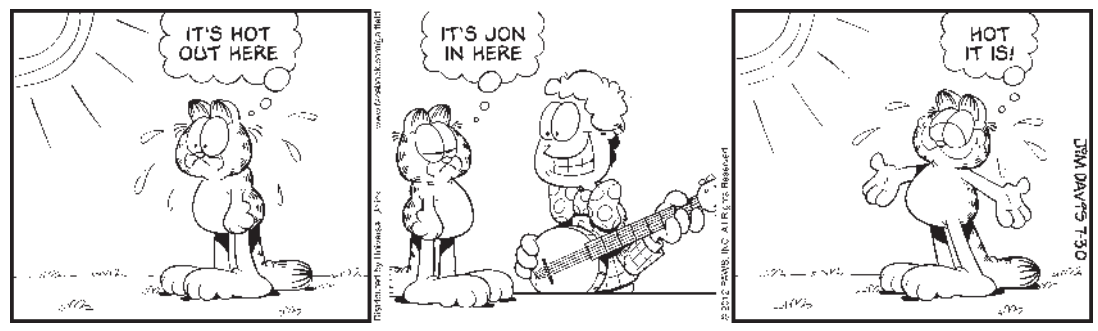
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



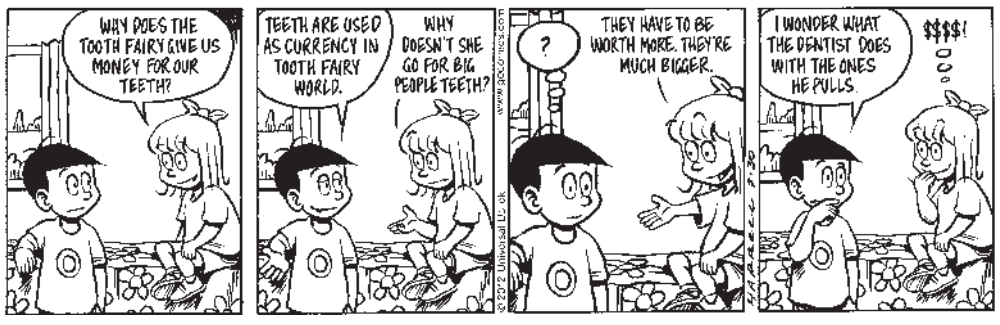
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



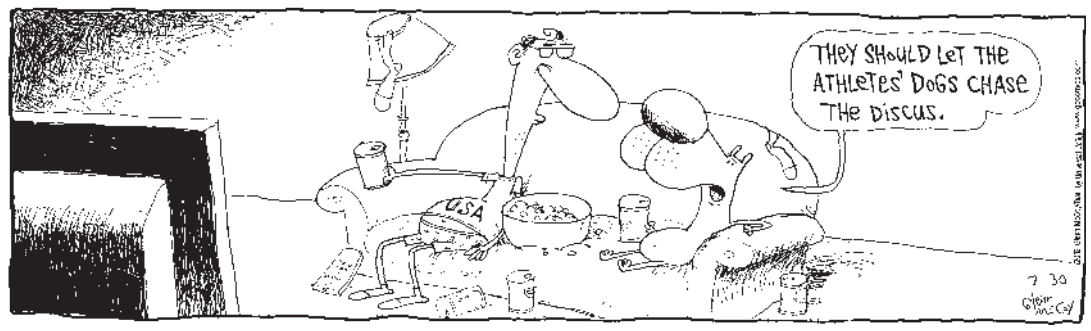
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHY DOES THE TOOTH FAIRY GIVE US MONEY FOR OUR TEETH?
TEETH ARE USED AS CURRENCY IN TOOTH FAIRY WORLD.
WHY DOESN'T SHE GO FOR BIG PEOPLE TEETH?
?
THEY HAVE TO BE WORTH MORE. THEY'RE MUCH BIGGER.
I WONDER WHAT THE DENTIST DOES WITH THE ONES HE PULLS.
$$$$!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Rosary component
5 Evergreen
8 Apple's center
12 Make undue claims
14 By word of mouth
15 Drunk, in slang
16 "Darn!"
17 Brewery product
18 They're read on a Kindle
20 Braid
23 Bruin
24 Antler
25 Pet rodent, often
28 "Rocks"
29 Sensitive spots
30 Midafternoon social
32 Darrell of "SNL"
34 Catches some rays
35 Arctic diving birds
36 Jones' "Men in Black" co-star
37 Hurts
40 Devoured
41 TV legend Griffin
42 First Treasury Secretary
47 Great Lake
48 Secondary quality
49 Well-being
50 Bill with a portrait of 42-Across
51 Leftovers recipe

DOWN
1 "Phooey!"
2 Historic period
3 Upper limb
4 Realm
5 Bus rider's expense
6 Resident (Suff.)
7 Cashed in
8 Companion
9 Sandwich cookie
10 — and pinion
11 BPOE members
13 Hanukkah gift
19 Low voice
20 — Beta Kappa
21 Ness, for one
22 Geometry calculation
23 Farm structures
25 Basketball tactic
26 Needle case
27 Landlord's due
29 Pornography
31 Fire residue
33 Wonder
34 Works in a refinery
36 Use a teaspoon
37 Old World duck
38 Unembellished
39 Met melody
40 "So be it"
43 Rd.
44 Youngster
45 Individual
46 Fresh

Solution time: 24 mins.

O	P	E	C	■	R	O	P	E	■	L	A	T
N	E	A	R	■	A	V	O	W	■	I	V	Y
U	R	S	A	■	C	A	L	E	■	E	E	K
S	U	E	Z	■	I	L	K	■	C	U	R	E
■	■	■	Y	O	N	■	A	P	R	■	■	■
B	A	R	Q	U	E	■	S	E	A	B	E	D
A	L	E	U	T	■	■	A	Z	U	R	E	■
H	E	G	I	R	A	■	D	R	Y	D	E	N
■	■	■	L	E	D	■	A	S	H	■	■	■
B	U	S	T	■	J	A	W	■	O	G	L	E
A	R	T	■	J	U	D	D	■	R	E	A	L
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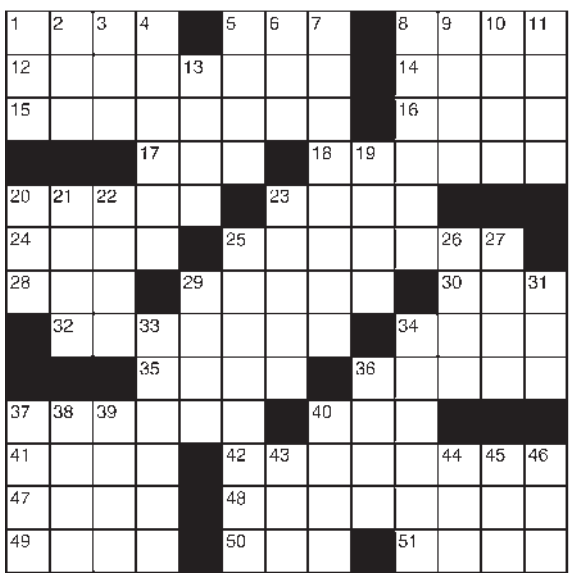
Saturday's answer 7-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hilary Swank, 38; Lisa Kudrow, 49; Laurence Fishburne, 51; Arnold Schwarzenegger, 65.

Happy Birthday: Engage in activities that allow you to work alongside creative individuals. Volunteer your services and you will instigate greater opportunities to utilize what you do best in unique ways. Love, romance and family planning should all be geared toward making your life more fulfilling and your goals more diverse. Your numbers are 5, 8, 23, 30, 32, 39, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take care of professional matters quickly and efficiently. Modesty and generosity will be key if you want to come out a winner and maintain your popularity. Gauge every move with the intent to secure your position. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stabilize your personal situation. Do what's required before you are asked. Embrace the changes suggested and you will get far more in return. A practical and affectionate approach to life and loved ones will set good family values. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Help will be offered if you ask. Try a different approach. Networking, applying and interviewing for a higher position will all lead to a brighter future. Express your feelings. Your values will convince others to take a chance on you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take action. Dreaming can be a relaxing and fun thing to do, but if you let your imagination run wild you won't accomplish what needs to be done. Positive action and doing more than what's expected of you will bring stellar results. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Improve your financial situation. Stop being so generous. Call in old debts, pay off borrowed money and set up a budget that will help you stabilize your life. Moving, downsizing or cutting back will do wonders for future prospects. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Share your plans for the future with people who can assist you. Refuse to let someone interfere with your productivity. Insist that whomever you spend time with contributes to helping you reach your goal or stays out of your way. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Trouble will surface at home or when dealing with a partner. You have to be willing to compromise if you want to finish what you start. A careless act or mention of something will be misinterpreted. Don't divulge secret information. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be leery of people who don't share your concerns. View different lifestyles, but refrain from impulsively altering your own. Discuss your plans with someone you respect and want to spend more time with. Avoid being burdened by someone unworthy. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There is money to be made through partnerships, contracts and settlements. Don't rely on hearsay if you want to make the right decision. Get your facts straight first. Past acquaintances are likely to come back into your life. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't fold under emotional pressure. A wrong move will set you back and make you appear weak. Stick to what you know and do best. Don't get angry if someone tries to dump added responsibility in your lap; politely decline and move on. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A chance meeting with someone will make you rethink your past, present and future. Observation is your best bet. A premature move could be costly. Focus on home, family and personal finance. Budget wisely. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stop waffling and realize your potential. Pick the people you want to include in your plans and discuss your ideas briefly. Someone you least expect will show jealousy. Before you have regrets, cut this person free and move on. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, outgoing and versatile. You are accepting and resilient.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8				5	
	2	3				4	6	9
			3		6			8
		7		8		9		4
	8		6		4		3	
5		2		1		7		
3			4		2			
4	1	9				6	7	
	5				1			

Difficulty Level ★ 7/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	1	7	5	8	6	2	9
9	6	8	4	2	3	5	1	7
5	7	2	1	6	9	8	3	4
2	8	5	9	3	4	1	7	6
7	3	6	8	1	2	4	9	5
4	1	9	6	7	5	3	8	2
6	9	4	3	8	7	2	5	1
8	5	7	2	4	1	9	6	3
1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BO DIDDLEY (1928-2008) **Solution: 10 letters**

D	L	E	I	N	A	D	C	M	A	H	T	O	H	S
O	E	D	I	M	A	M	A	N	O	M	G	T	T	Z
R	N	T	L	U	O	G	U	S	S	I	E	R	I	R
I	V	A	P	I	H	N	R	D	O	Y	E	A	A	E
G	O	I	I	O	W	S	R	O	R	E	P	I	F	M
I	C	S	O	P	D	A	M	R	T	R	P	N	E	M
N	A	A	L	L	O	A	E	A	E	P	Ⓓ	C	L	U
A	L	L	I	B	I	B	H	G	I	S	Ⓝ	O	L	R
T	S	L	Y	L	E	N	N	S	M	A	Ⓐ	N	I	D
O	O	E	G	L	O	I	S	I	R	H	Ⓗ	G	C	A
R	K	O	K	S	S	I	T	J	L	E	T	O	U	D
M	O	C	T	E	S	H	N	I	G	E	N	Y	L	W
G	U	E	U	S	D	R	I	V	E	R	H	R	H	A
H	T	L	I	R	I	E	S	E	T	A	B	T	O	R
S	B	M	E	R	T	E	V	O	L	A	Z	T	E	C

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Adopted, Aloha, Aztec, Bates, Blues, Congo, Corners, Crawdad, Driver, Drummer, Ellas, Ethel, Faith, Googlia Moo, Gussie, Hand, Huckleberry, I'm a Man, Jive, Keyboards, Love, Lucille, McDaniel, Mississippi, Mona, Mule, Organ, Originator, Otha, Paiz, Piano, Rhythm, Singer, Smith, Stetson Hat, Street, Tootsie, Train, Truck, Violin, Vocals, Whoa, Wild

Last Saturday's Answer: Protection

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY DLC. BUMANGLAG, Plaintiff, -v- **LINDA DLC. TOVES, CONSOLATION DLC. TOVES, ANA C. DELA CRUZ, ANTONIO C. DELA CRUZ, RAMON C. DELA CRUZ, JOSEPHINE P. DELA CRUZ, and the Estate of MANUEL T. DELA CRUZ, deceased** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-275** **FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on January 26, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 21729, situated in I-Denni, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 44, 660 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2038/72, registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7912, dated January 23, 1979.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Kemp, Billingsley lead Dodgers past Giants

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Chad Billingsley throws to the San Francisco Giants during the first inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Saturday, July 28, 2012.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Matt Kemp homered among his four hits and drove in four runs, Chad Billingsley took a two-hitter into the eighth inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants 10-0 on Saturday.

Hanley Ramirez had three RBIs in helping the Dodgers beat San Francisco for the second straight day to pull within a game of the NL West-leading Giants.

Billingsley (6-9) drove in a run for Los Angeles with a sacrifice fly. He gave up leadoff doubles to Buster Posey in the second and Angel Pagan in the fifth, the only base runners he allowed through seven innings. He gave up two more hits and was lifted with one out in the eighth.

Barry Zito (8-7) gave up four runs on seven hits over 5 1-3 innings. He walked one and struck out four.

Cubs 3, Cardinals 2

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Reed Johnson drove in the go-ahead run with a bunt single in the seventh inning and the Cubs got past St. Louis, ending the Cardinals' four-game winning streak.

The Cubs had lost five in a row to St. Louis, but has won nine of its last 11 overall at Wrigley Field.

James Russell (3-0) earned the win in relief, with Joe Kelly (1-4) taking the loss.

Braves 2, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Mike Minor struck out nine and combined with Craig Kimbrel on a four-hitter, Jason Heyward had two hits and drove in a run, and Atlanta edged Philadelphia.

Minor (6-7) allowed one run and four hits, and didn't issue a walk in eight innings. He matched a season high with nine strikeouts and retired his last 13 batters.

The Phillies' only run came on Chase Utley's homer in the fourth.

Pirates 4, Astros 3

In Houston, Rod Barajas hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning, and Pittsburgh sent Houston to its club-record 12th straight loss.

Wandy Rodriguez pitched six innings in his Pittsburgh debut, allowing three runs and six hits with five walks against his former team. The free-falling Astros, who have lost 25 of 27, traded the left-hander to the Pirates on Tuesday.

Alex Presley and Neil Walker homered for Pittsburgh.

Nationals 4, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin-native Jordan Zimmermann pitched his first game against Milwaukee, and his teammates hit three home runs in Washington's win over the Brewers.

Zimmermann (8-6) struck out six and gave up five hits in six innings.

Tyler Clippard pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

Marlin 4, Padres 2

In Miami, Jose Reyes hit a two-run homer, and Nathan Eovaldi won his Miami debut, leading the Marlins over San Diego.

Justin Ruggiano also homered, and Steve Cishek earned his fourth save for the Marlins, who ended a three-game slide.

Yonder Alonso had two hits and drove in a run for the Padres, who had won seven of 10.

Eovaldi (2-6) was traded to Miami on Wednesday from the Dodgers in a four-player swap that sent Hanley Ramirez to Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 6, Mets 3

In Phoenix, Miguel Montero homered, scored twice and drove in a pair of runs to help Arizona overcome Ike Davis' three home runs in a win over the sinking New York Mets.

Ian Kennedy pitched into the seventh inning, and Gerardo Parra added three hits and two RBIs for Arizona (51-50), which has won eight of 11.

New York managed nothing at the plate besides three solo shots by Davis and lost for the 14th time in 16 games.

Reds 9, Rockies 7

In Denver, Johnny Cueto withstood a rough start to pitch effectively for six innings, Ryan Ludwick hit two home runs, and Cincinnati won their season-high ninth straight by beating Colorado.

Scott Rolen, Drew Stubbs and rookie Todd Frazier also homered for the NL Central leading Reds, who have gone 13-2 since the All-Star break and hit a high-water mark for the season at 20 games above .500 (60-40).

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 1

In Torontoto, Edwin Encarnacion, Colby Rasmus and Yunel Escobar homered off Detroit newcomer Anibal Sanchez, leading the Toronto Blue Jays over the Tigers 5-1 Saturday.

The Tigers have lost three straight and four of five after a five-game winning streak that briefly lifted them into first place in the AL Central.

Sanchez gave up five runs and eight hits in six-plus innings in his Detroit debut.

Mariners 4, Royals 3

In Seattle, Kevin Millwood pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Jesus Montero hit a two-run homer and Seattle beat Kansas City.

Millwood (4-8) gave up one unearned run and six hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out three, walked one and was aided by two excellent plays from shortstop Brendan Ryan.

Tom Wilhelmsen worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Athletics 6, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Yoenis Cespedes and Chris Carter hit two-run homers to back an effective pitching performance by Bartolo Colon, and Oakland beat Baltimore for their ninth win in 10 games.

Jemile Weeks had three hits and scored twice for the surging A's, who are on course for the best July in franchise history. They are 18-3 (.857) this month.

Red Sox 8, Yankees 6

At New York, Curtis Granderson misplayed Pedro Ciriaco's ninth-inning flyball into a go-ahead triple, and Boston beat the New York Yankees after Mark Teixeira had tied the score with a two-run homer off nemesis Vicente Padilla in the eighth.

Down 6-1, the Yankees closed in the fifth on Jayson Nix's two-run homer off Jon Lester and Derek Jeter's RBI grounder.

White Sox 5, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adam Dunn hit his major league-leading 31st home run, Philip Humber pitched six solid innings, and the Chicago White Sox won their fifth straight game by beating Texas.

Paul Konerko added a two-run homer for Chicago, which increased its AL Central lead to 2½ games over Detroit. The White Sox have won the first two in a three-game series between the division leaders.

Twins 12, Indians 5

In Minneapolis, Samuel Deduno pitched seven strong innings for his second major league win, and Josh Willingham hit his 27th homer of the season, leading Minnesota over Cleveland.

Deduno (2-0) allowed two hits and struck out a career-high six in his fourth big league start. The Twins routed the Indians for the second consecutive night after being swept three games in Chicago.

Rays 3, Angels 0

In Anaheim, California, Matt Moore outpitched C.J. Wilson, scattering four hits over 6 1-3 innings, and Ben Zobrist homered to lead Tampa Bay past the Los Angeles Angels.

Moore (7-7) struck out six to increase his season total to 112, second-most among rookies behind Texas' Yu Darvish. The 23-year-old lefty pitched a career-high eight innings in his previous start and retired his final 17 batters in a 2-1 loss to Seattle last Sunday.

Magic hire Jacque Vaughn as coach

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) —The Magic's latest makeover continues to have a youthful feel.

Orlando announced the hiring of Jacque Vaughn, 37, as its next head coach on Saturday, bringing the latest 30-something member to a basketball operations department following the hiring of 30-year-old general manager Rob Hennigan last month. He will be formally introduced at a news conference on Monday.

mes the 10th coach in team history and replaces Stan Van Gundy, who was fired on May 21 despite compiling a 259-135 regular-season record, franchise-best .657 winning percentage and a 31-28 playoff record.

''As we navigated through our coaching search, we quickly saw that Jacque's spirit and leadership strengths made him the clear choice,'' Hennigan said in a statement. ''We are confident that his diligence, attention to detail and communication style will help establish the bedrock of our culture moving forward. His commitment and passion to building a sustainable program will help steer our organization for years to come.''

Hennigan chose Vaughn from a finalists' pool that included Phoenix Suns development coach Lindsey Hunter and former Detroit Pistons head coach and current Philadelphia 76ers assistant Michael Curry.

A 12-year NBA player before retiring in 2009 with San Antonio, Vaughn's career included 80 games for the Magic in 2002-03. The former Kansas Jayhawks standout has never been an NBA head coach. But he has spent the past two seasons as an assistant at San Antonio, where he also won a championship as a player in 2007.

That is important because one of the qualities that both Hennigan and Magic CEO Alex Martins said the team was seeking in a successor to Van Gundy was a championship pedigree.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich is one of the league's top coaches and has multiple NBA titles. Vaughn also has played under the likes of Boston coach Doc Rivers, Cleveland coach Byron Scott—both who have titles as coaches or players—and former Utah coach Jerry Sloan.

Even before Vaughn was announced, the potential choice was receiving some criticism after Vaughn moved to a front-runner position.

Former Magic player and current television analyst Shaquille O'Neal posted a scathing assessment of Vaughn likely succeeding Van Gundy, posting on Twitter: ''Orlando magic is about to hire jock Vaughn over mike Malone or Brian shaw are u kidding me, wow, good luck winning wit Dat team Dwite Howard.''

Malone, Golden State's lead assistant, and Shaw, Indiana's associate head coach, also both received preliminary interviews and like Vaughn are considered in NBA circles to be rising prospects among the assistant coaching ranks.

O'Neal has friendship ties to both having played with Shaw as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers. He also briefly played under Malone with he was an assistant with the Cavaliers.

That criticism aside, the biggest unknown is what - if anything—Vaughn's hire will do to quell or exacerbate Magic center Dwight Howard's desire to leave town.

Howard reissued his trade demand to Hennigan when the pair met for the first time in Los Angeles last month, singling out the Brooklyn Nets as his desired landing spot.

After recent efforts by Orlando to make that happen fell through, along with possible trades to other teams, Howard has since told Hennigan in another meeting that he has no desire to return to Orlando next season for the final year of his contract.

Martins said following Van Gundy's firing that the team did not want to go through the same whirlwind of uncertainty that Howard's preseason trade demand put it through last season.

But Hennigan said earlier this month that he didn't rule out the possibility of Howard returning to the Magic next season.

Lochte wins 400 IM in blowout; Phelps finishes 4th

LONDON (AP)—Ryan Lochte strolled the deck of the Olympic Aquatics Centre wearing diamonds in his mouth and lime-green sneakers on the feet that powered him through the water faster than anyone else. Beaming, he chomped playfully on his gold medal while Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" blared throughout the massive arena.

Michael Phelps?

He was nowhere to be found.

Not during the race.

Not when it came time to hand out the medals.

On a stunner of an opening night at the pool in London, Phelps was routed by his American rival in the 400-meter individual medley, losing to Lochte by more than 4 seconds Saturday. That's not all: The winningest Olympian ever didn't win any medal at all, the first time that's happened in a race of this magnitude since he was a 15-year-old kid competing in just one event at the Sydney Games, a dozen years ago.

"It was horrible," Phelps told coach Bob Bowman when he climbed out.

Bowman's reply: "It was."

Lochte turned the much-anticipated duel with Phelps into a blowout, raising serious questions about whether the guy who has won 14 gold medals and 16 medals overall has anything left in the tank for his Olympic farewell.

Phelps is planning to retire as soon as he finishes the last of his seven races in London, but he looked ready to call it a career while struggling just to pull himself from the water when his first event was done.

He was totally spent.

He was thoroughly beaten, perhaps signaling a changing of the guard at the pool.

"This is my year," said Lochte, who popped in his grillz—diamond-studded mouth jewelry—for the victory ceremony. "I know it and I feel it, because I've put in hard work. I've trained my butt off for four years ... and there's no better way to start this Olympics off than getting gold."

AP

United States' Ryan Lochte competes in the men's 400-meter individual medley swimming final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Saturday, July 28, 2012.

For Phelps, the start of these games couldn't have been more out of character.

He barely qualified for the evening final, a performance that hinted at trouble ahead. Trouble indeed. Phelps struggled to a fourth-place finish, blown out by Lochte and beaten by Brazil's Thiago Pereira and Japan's Kosuke Hagino.

"It was just a crappy race," Phelps said. "I felt fine the first 200, then I don't know. They just swam a better race than me, a smarter race than me, and were better prepared than me. That's why they're on the medal stand."

Lochte took the gold with a time of 4 minutes, 5.18 seconds. Pereira (4:08.86) and Hagino (4:08.94) were well back but ahead of Phelps, who touched fourth in 4:09.28—nearly 5 1-2 seconds off his world record from the Beijing Olympics and not nearly as fast as he went during the U.S. trials last month.

Phelps was trying to become the first male swimmer to win the same individual event at three straight Olympics. He'll have three more chances at a threepeat before he's done in London, having also won the 200 individual medley, plus the 100 and 200 butterfly, at Athens and Beijing.

But he'll need a major comeback. After one race, he looks nothing like the swimmer who won six gold medals in Athens, then a record eight in Beijing to break Mark Spitz's Olympic record.

China had a big night, claiming a couple of gold medals.

Sixteen-year-old Ye Shiwen set a world record in the women's 400 individual medley—only the third mark to fall since high-tech bodysuits were banned at the end of 2009. She won in 4:28.43, breaking the mark of 4:29.45 by Australia's Stephanie Rice at the 2008 Beijing Games. American Elizabeth Beisel took silver and China's Li Xuanxu grabbed the bronze.

Sun Yang flirted with a world record in the men's 400 freestyle. He took gold in 3:40.14, just off the mark of 3:40.07 by Germany's Paul Biedermann in a rubberized suit three years ago. When it was done, Sun propped himself on the lane rope, pumping his fist and splashing the water.

South Korea's Park Tae-hwan won silver in 3:42.06, fortunate even to take part after initially being disqualified for a false start in the prelims. The ruling was overturned by governing body FINA a couple of hours later on appeal. Peter Vanderkaay of the U.S. won the bronze.

US team could get tough test from France in opener

LONDON (AP)—As the world watched the queen, David Beckham and what seemed like all of England take part in the Olympic opening ceremonies, Mike Krzyzewski stayed in.

Back at the U.S. team's hotel, Krzyzewski and his assistants studied tape of France.

Krzyzewski isn't taking any chances.

"To not prepare would be the ultimate sign of disrespect," Krzyzewski said, "and the biggest, poorest assumption that you could make."

It's gold time for the Americans, who open the 12-nation tournament Sunday against France, a squad led by San Antonio guard Tony Parker and featuring five other NBA players. The French are one of several teams that believe they have a legitimate chance of shocking the star-studded Americans.

"It's a big test for us," U.S. forward Carmelo Anthony said, lacing up his sneakers Saturday before practice at East London University. "We're going up against guys that we normally play on a night-to-night basis, and those countries have put them all together just like we have. And at the end of the day their main goal is to beat the United States.

"There's going to be some good battles."

France will only be the first. This isn't going to be some easy sightseeing stroll along the Thames for the American team before stepping onto the gold-medal stand. Spain, Argentina and Brazil are all talented enough to not only compete with the U.S., but potentially upset the world's No. 1 team.

That wasn't the case four years ago, when the U.S. steamrolled through the field, winning by at least 20 points in each of its first seven games before beating Spain 118-107 in the final. Krzyzewski, who guided the 2008 "Redeem Team" to gold, believes a potential road to gold could have some dangerous bumps.

"The overall 12 teams are more talented, more seasoned," he said. "Spain is just in the prime of their—28, 29 (years of age). Brazil is in that wheelhouse. I think Russia's really, really good. Obviously Argentina, everyone says they're older but their heart and talent has not gotten older, It's just gotten better.

"There's just more teams that feel that they have a chance to win the gold medal—and medal—than they did in '08."

Count the French among them.

They finished second to Spain at last year's European Championships, and maintain they won't be intimidated by the U.S. team's collection of All-Stars, MVPs and household names. France's players have no intention of being posterized on a dunk by LeBron James or Kobe Bryant the way 7-foot-2 countryman Frederic Weis was famously embarrassed by a soaring Vince Carter in the 2000 Sydney Games.

France, 0-4 against the U.S. in Olympic competition, isn't frightened.

"For us there is no fear factor because we play against them all the time," said Parker, who will wear goggles to protect his surgically repaired left eye. "We know they are really, really good. But it's not going to be like the other teams where they don't see them and it's like, 'Oh, wow, I'm playing against Kobe and LeBron.'"

Bryant likened France's offense to the one Parker runs with the Spurs. Everything starts with the ball in Parker's hands, so the U.S. team's challenge will be to make him give it up.

Invisible flame is burning issue at London Games

LONDON (AP)—The Olympic flame is nowhere to be seen.

The enduring image of the Summer and Winter Games, lit Friday night at the climax of the opening ceremony, is out of sight from the throngs of fans who hoped to catch an inspiring glimpse or take the photo of a lifetime.

The cauldron sits low in the center of Olympic Stadium in London, invisible from the outside. It will be moved Sunday to a corner, and visible in person only to fans lucky enough to have tickets to track and field, which starts Friday.

Until then, if you want to see the Olympic flame, you'll have to settle for a beauty shot on television, where it looks from above like a small, distant campfire, or the pilot light under the eye of a giant stove.

"It's unfortunate," said John Morrissey, who traveled to London on a day trip from Ireland on Saturday, the first day of competition. "I didn't realize you couldn't see it. I was going to walk around until I saw it. It seems quite poorly thought out."

"That could have been made more user-friendly," said Lorraine Payne, an airline worker from London.

The lighting was one of the high points of the opening ceremony. Seven teenage athletes, meant to represent the next generation of British sports, touched flaming torches to 205 petal-shaped copper stems that spread into a ring of fire.

Then the flames rose and converged, as if into an elegant, blazing flower. Fireworks erupted over the stadium, Paul McCartney led a singalong of "Hey Jude," and London was off to a feel-good start to its games.

Just maybe a darker one than everyone expected.

The designer of the cauldron, Thomas Heatherwick, offered an artistic defense: "It's almost that the stadium represents some kind of temple and it's the flame that sits in the heart of that temple."

"We were aware that cauldrons have been getting bigger, higher, fatter as each Olympics has happened," he said.

Indeed, Beijing was a tough flame to follow. The Summer Games in 2008 featured a mammoth, spiraling cauldron attached to the inner roof of the stadium, so big that it dwarfed the wire-suspended gymnast who spacewalked around the rim to light it.

At the last Winter Games, in Vancouver in 2010, there was an outcry when organizers put the cauldron behind an unsightly chain-link fence along the harbor, touching off a "free the flame" movement.

Organizers ultimately ceded to public demand and opened up a rooftop promenade that allowed an elevated, unobstructed view for the thousands of people who came to the site every day to take photos.

This isn't the first time the Olympic flame has been kept inside a stadium in London. In fact, designers said they wanted to replicate the 1948 Olympics in London, when the cauldron was placed in a corner of Wembley Stadium.

"With the technology we now have that didn't exist at the time it can be shared with everyone in the park with screens," Heatherwick said. "We felt that sharing it with the screens reinforces the intimacy."

Before arriving for the opening ceremony, the flame had traveled across the U.K. in a 70-day torch relay covering 8,000 miles. Organizers said that public exposure - 15 million Britons have seen it - was more important than showing it off in a park.

The design and location of the cauldron were among the most closely guarded secrets of the games. The plans were devised two years ago with opening ceremony director Danny Boyle, the Oscar-winning filmmaker.

The London Olympic planners started with the assumption that the cauldron should be on top of the stadium, sticking up like the antenna on a cellphone, Heatherwick said.

But it dawned on them that the stadium was almost a perfect circle, he said, "and that the most powerful spot in the whole of that stadium is the very, very center."

Turning it into a beacon would have meant making it bigger, and that would not have met Boyle's and the designers' vision of "making something that was rooted in where people were," Heatherwick said.

The whole cauldron project - which was approved by Prime Minister David Cameron - was so hush-hush that secret rehearsals were held in the town of Harrowgate in northern England.

Father and daughter win CFL fun run fundraiser

By WALTER CEPED SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

It was just another jog through the park for veteran runner Robin Sapong as he coasted to victory in the Commonwealth Football League's fun run held Saturday morning along Beach Road.

Sapong finished the around 4-mile course that started and ended in the parking lot of the former Oleai Beach Bar & Grill with runners heading to as far as Japanese tank across Quartermaster Road in 15:35

Sapong beat 14 other runners, including Jude Loste, who crossed the line just 15 seconds behind the former. Sapong's daughter, Reylynn, was third overall with a time of 17:35 and took the first place in the women's division.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Runners head out to the course of last Saturday's CFL fun run fundraiser along Beach Road.

The younger Sapong did not even stop for water at the turn as she kept trucking down the path ahead of the eight other boys in the pack.

Participants received various IT&E swag and one lucky winner went home with a new cell phone after the race, which was held to raise funds for a CFL team that will compete against the Philippines and Guam.

"All in all, the event was a success. This was only the first of a number of fundraiser efforts that we have planned and we really just want to get the buzz out about our cause," said CFL's John Blanco.

"We want to express a big thank you to Brad Ruszala and IT&E for supporting the team and we are looking forward to get things rolling on the field," added Blanco.

According to Blanco, about 20 players have been participating in practices and he expects veterans to start coming out soon.

Blanco added they expect to meet tough challenges from the Philippines and Guam as their opponents have multiple games under their belts coming into their matchups with the CNMI.

The Commonwealth's three-game series kicks off on Oct. 20 at home with the local bets facing the PH's Punishers at the Airport field. The CNMI players will then travel to the Philippines for a rematch with the Punishers on Nov. 10 before returning home to duel Guam on Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, Blanco said they are still accepting quarterbacks and other positions. Practices take place at the Airport field every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 5pm.

For more information, email johnsblanco@gmail.com.

YOUR

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defeat Natibu in Game 1, as the former enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage in the finale after sweeping its first three games in the playoffs. The No.5-ranked Your Balls went past Manelos (No. 4), dethroned champions Man Amigos (No. 1), and the eventual third place finisher Gagu Eyez (3) before toppling Natibu last Friday.

Your Balls roster also includes Norman Angui Jr., Eugene, Joseph and Joshua Arriola, Giovanni Ayuyu, Frank Hocog, Steve Igisiar, Byron, Jun, Kyle, and Marvin Kaipat, Audie and John Maratita, AJ Murig, Jordan Ogo Vincent P. Sablan, Oliver Secharmedal and Mike Taitano.

Ned Norita got things going for Natibu, as he left the yard for two runs in the first inning. Your Balls' Juan Maratita answered with a triple and was driven hom by Audie Maratita to make it a one-run game.

The count shifted to 3-1 in the second inning after Your Balls countered a solo blast from Natibu's BJ Sablan with three hits. Igisiar singled in Secharmedal.

Then an RBI single by Natibu's Jerry Guerrero was followed by a two-un homer from Bruce Norita, but Your Balls remained in hot pursuit, 5-6, as an error and a double set up a three-un home from Kyle Kaipat in the bottom frame.

Your Balls' Ayuyu tied the match with a leadoff solo shot in the fourth and a standoff ensued for the next two innings.

Natibu stuffed Your Balls 1-2-3 in the fifth and sixth frames and pushed the envelope, 9-6, in the top of the seventh with four hits. Secharmedal then led off for Your Balls in the last inning and hit a double, while Ayuyu reached on an error that set up the game-tying three-run bomb from JP Lizama with zero outs. A fly out later, Vince Sablan Jr. airmailed the final blow to centerfield.

BACK-TO-BACK

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champion were Kikki Aldan, Juanette Atalig, Eileen Babuata, Bert Camacho, Geri Dela Cruz, Lenise Kapileo, Liz Lebria, Janica Lizama, Erin Mendiola, Thelma Mizer, Juljen Ngeskebei, and Rachel Salalila. It took Sakudi players a while to get their bats going, but they pulled it off under the added pressure and reestablished their dominance in the women's league.

Sakudi edged out Check It Out for pennant honors just prior to the playoffs and earned a first round bye. It went on to roll through the Rookies and the 670 Babes in the winners bracket semis before Friday's rematch. Enamo Meta made up the rest of the field.

Game 1
670 Babes 5, Sakudi 4

Two hits and two extra throws around the infield gave Sakudi an early 2-0 lead, but 670 Babes tied it in the third inning off a couple of errors and an RBI double from Catalina Dela Cruz.

Sakudi answered with two quick runs off more 670 Babes blunders and an RBI single from Kikki Aldan in the fourth.

670 Babes then buckled down defensively after that and pulled off a nice double play to close the fifth, however they stranded two runs in the bottom portion and were hung up in what was perhaps the play of the night. Sakudi's Juljen Ngeskebei made a backwards leaping snow cone catch at short and slung it over to first for the double play.

Unfortunately however, it did not boost a late rally for the reigning champs and it was the 670 Babes who mounted the upset at the cusp of regulation.

670's Tani Masga, Erlinda Naputi and Edylyn Benjamin all led off the bottom of the seven inning with singles and Popo Tudela stepped in with the bases loaded and placed a drive into right field that tied the game, and a wild throw during the play prevented the sweep.

Game 1
Sakudi 11, 670 Babes 3

Sakudi made a statement out of the gate in Game 2 and hung up a five-run string in the opening frame off four hits and a pair of errors. It loaded the bases right away with a double, a hit, and an error for a two-RBI base smash from Mizer and a sacrifice fly from Aldan.

670 Babes managed a run off a fielder's choice in the top of the second, but Sakudi trotted in front in the bottom frame,7-1, thanks to a two-RBI single from Camacho.

Sakudi players also brought their gloves with them in the deciding match and left their rivals with ducks on the pond in the fourth and went on to add four more runs in the bottom side off three hits and some errors by a deflated 670 Babes squad.

Two runners crossed home off errors, while Ngeskebei lifted a sacrifice fly and Salalila bagged an RBI single in the surge. Sakudi held it together out on the field in the late innings, giving up only a couple of unearned runs in the sixth frame.

STRONG

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Bryle Alegre went 2-for-2 from the foul line to give San Antonio its first lead, 45-43, after falling behind at halftime, 30-32. Nevin Salem then finished what Alegre started, scoring 7 of San Antonio's last 9 points to end the third with their team now ahead by 7, 53-46.

A 7-2 start in the fourth quarter stretched San Antonio's advantage to 12, 60-48, before KFC woke up and answered with its own 8-0 rally to move within six, 54-60, with over six minutes left on the clock.

However, San Antonio pulled away anew with Salem firing nine straight points, making all of his baskets off fastbreak plays. With Salem burning rubber, San Antonio tasted its biggest lead at 15, 69-54, less than three minutes left on the clock.

KFC them made one final push for a big comeback when they sliced the lead to single digits, 60-69, and Salem, Alegre, and Jaymark De Guzman fouled out. However, KFC went 1-for-8 from the foul line in the ensuing plays, while Jack Aranda hit 2-for-2 to secure the win.

Salem paced San Antonio with 20 points, while Melvin Cadiang and De Guzman added 17 and 10 markers, respectively.

KFC newcomers Sii Mafi and Angelo Fernando top-scored for the defending champion with 13, but their baskets could not come in streak. In the early loss, KFC, which won the DL JOS-sponsored DLX caging against Team Pogi this month, clearly missed the services of Finals MVP Jeff Durant.

Durant was a force inside in KFC's title win, controlling rebounds, making putbacks, and challenging opponents' shots. The bulkier, but much slower Mafi tried to fill Durant's place, but missed a lot of free throws and could not consistently hit those easy shots underneath. Mafi was 1-for-4 from the 15-foot line in the final two minutes of the match and muffed three attempts inside.

Fernando despite scoring double figures was still looking for a place on his new team, while holdovers from the champion KFC squad also struggled with their games. Regular season MVP Ralph Francisco and Mythical Five member Herbert Maranan had only 7 and 5 markers, respectively.

San Antonio is bannered by the core of the Fastbreakers that finished second in the regular season of the DLX caging early this month and beefed up its roster with the addition of Alegre and De Guzman, who played for the CNMI U17 National Team.

Sixteen other teams are competing in the second edition of the DLX B league.

Brgy. Sna Antonio 73 – Ne. Salem 20, Cadiang 17, De Guzman 10, Palacios 8, Alegre 6, Villanueva 2, Aranda 2.

KFC/Taco Bell 65 – Mafi 13, Fernando 13, Francisco 7, Deleon Guerrero 6, Dela Rosa 6, Tinio 6, Maranan 5, Lee 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 30-32, 53-46, 73-65.

FORMER

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fullback for Malaysia and had his debut against host West Germany.

"I was nervous during the first game. There were a lot of people watching and since we're playing the host country, the pressure was bigger. We, amateur players, played against the semi pro Germans. It was an intense game and unfortunately, we lost, 0-3,"

Next up for Koo and company was the United States, which they beat, 3-0.

"That time the US men's soccer team was not that strong, while Malaysia was a force in Asia," said Koo, adding that only three Asian countries made it to the Olympic soccer competition in Munich, excluding now powerhouse Japan and South Korea.

"Only us, Iran, and Burma made it to the Olympics," said Koo, who after representing Malaysia in the Olympics went to Hong Kong where he turned pro and became the former British territory's national coach.

Koo's last game was against Morocco and they lost, 0-3, failing to advance to the second round. Poland went on to win the gold medal after beating Hungary in the finals, 2-1, while the former Soviet Union and East Germany shared bronze medal honors after having a draw in the consolation game (at that time no rules on draws were formulated yet).

Despite Malaysia's early elimination, Koo and his 18 other teammates still stayed at the Athletes Village for several days and were sound asleep on Sept. 5 when the Munich massacre happened. Eleven Israeli athletes and coaches, a West German police officer, and five terrorists were killed in the tragic incident that started with the Palestinian group Black September hostaging the Israeli Olympic team at Building 31 of the Munich Olympic Village.

"I think it happened early morning when most of the athletes were asleep. We were not that far from where the hostage taking happened because at that time accommodations were done in alphabetical order. However, we didn't learn about the incident until in the morning. Security was so tight after that and athletes were really frightened," Koo said.

The two-time "Coach of the Year" winner in Hong Kong Top Footballer Awards added games were stopped for two days and with the delay, the closing ceremonies were pushed back and he was not able to attend the event.

"We had to leave as we had already booked our flight back to Malaysia. It was unfortunate that we missed the closing ceremonies, but we still considered ourselves lucky because we left Munich unharmed," said Koo.

Weekend Sports

Softball teams take center stage

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With basketball leagues concluding and CNMI athletes returning from off-island tournaments, it was the local softball teams' turn to make headlines last week.

The playoff round in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League was the talk of the town with the men's division down to two teams by last Friday. Last year's runner-up Natibu battled first finalist Your Balls in the men's championship.

In the women's division, defending champion Sakudi dueled 670 Babes, while Elias and Talu Fahn squared off in the "Bottom Six" finale. Elias and Talu Fahn failed to make it to the Top 8 after the regular season in the men's division and were forced to play in a separate single-elimination playoffs with four other squads. Elias went on to top the "Bottom Six" after beating Talu Fahn in the finals, 15-11, last Thursday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Aces notched back-to-back wins after stunning the league-leading Saipan Stevedore Yankees, 9-2, during their game in the Saipan Major League. The win was a fitting follow-up of the Aces' hard-earned 4-2 triumph over the St. Michael Angels. Also winning last week were the Tan Holdings Brewers against the D-9ers, 17-1.

In soccer, the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League returned to action at the TSL Sports Complex after a weeklong break with three teams winning separate matches at the resumption of the competition.

Shirley's Coffee Shop and Xerox won in the women's game, while Godfather's prevailed in the men's division. Also recording victories last week were the IP&E-sponsored Astig Futsal both in the boys U14 and U18 divisions, Baked Girls in the women's field, and men's league-leader and undefeated Wild Bill's.

Meanwhile, two races were held last week with Hyatt Regency Saipan holding a 10K and marathon and Mieko Carey and Saipan Swim Club hosting a kids triathlon.

Visiting boxer Daniel Ramirez topped the men's division 10K event of Hyatt Run For A Cause, while Akiko Miller reigned in the women's category. In half marathon, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger emerged the top placers in their respective divisions.

In the kids triathlon held around the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, 14 participated and all completed the weekend race.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of the IP&E-sponsored Astig Futsal pose for a group photo before their game against IT&E last week in the SSC futsal summer league at the TSL Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of the IP&E-sponsored Astig Futsal pose for a group photo before their U18 game against the Thundercats last week in the SSC futsal summer league at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wild Bill's Jack Thoensaket, left, and Go Green's Raphael Zapanta battle for the ball during their game in the men's division of the SSC futsal summer league at the TSL Sports Complex.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

SaiPal's Gloyd Martin waits for the pitch during their playoff game against eventual finalist Natibu in the men's division of the Chamolinian softball league last week at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last week's kids triathlon pose for a group photo before the start of the race at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Trench Tech trainee Daniel Ramirez (in red shirt) warms up while other participants in the 10K event of the Hyatt Run For A Cause wait for the start of the race last week at Micro Beach.

SPORTS
TSL
COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for July 30, 2012
2012 Summer Soccer Camp
4th Session
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM: U10 • 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM: U8
SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL
2012 Summer Futsal League
5:30 PM: U14 Boys' Division IT&E vs. Astig
6:30 PM: U18 Boys' Division Mean Machine vs. Thundercats
7:30 PM: Men's Division IT&E vs. Shirley's
8:30 PM: Women's Division Shirley's vs. IT&E

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Your Balls hoists men's championship

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Your Balls pulled off a dramatic 10-9 win over Natibu to take the men's championship in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League last Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Behind by three runs at bottom of the seventh inning of Game 1, 6-9, Your Ball's JP Lizama hit a three-run homer and Vince Sablan Jr. made a walk-off solo blast to steal the crown from Natibu, which settled for another bridesmaid finish this season.

Your Balls needed only to

See YOUR on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Your Balls players pose with their championship trophies after beating Natibu in the men's finals of the Chamolinian softball league last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Back-to-back for Sakudi

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Sakudi clinched back-to-back championships after surviving 670 Babes in the women's finals of the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League last Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Sakudi was thunderstruck by the 670 Babes in Game 1, 4-5, but came back strong in the deciding Game 2, nailing a 11-3 victory.

Playing for the two-time

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Sakudi players pose with their championship trophies after beating 670 Babes in the women's finals of the Chamolinian softball league last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Strong debut for San Antonio

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Barangay San Antonio drew first blood in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League, outclassing defending champion KFC/Taco Bell, 73-65, in the league opener last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Antonio seized control of the close game late in the third quarter, led by as much as 15 in the fourth, and then thwarted KFC's short rally midway in the final canto to win the first game in the second edition of the DLX caging.

See STRONG on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Barangay San Antonio's Jaymark De Guzman drives against KFC/Taco Bell defenders during the opening game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gulao Rai Basketball Court.

Former Olympian shares Games experience

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

When Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Khen Koo watched some highlights of the opening ceremonies in the 2012 London Olympic Games last weekend, he could not resist recalling his own Olympic experience, 40 years ago.

Koo, who is on Saipan to help the island's players improve their skills, was a member of the Malaysian national soccer team that competed in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.

Koo

"It was a dream come true. I was young, just 21 years old and to compete in the biggest sports event in the world was a once in a lifetime opportunity," Koo said in an interview with Saipan Tribune last Saturday.

"When I walked to the stadium with the rest of the Malaysian delegation, I had this sense of pride. It was a great feeling representing your country in any tournament, especially in the Olympics where you wave your flag and greet a lot of people, who greet you back and wave to you during the opening ceremonies. It was an unforgettable experience," said Koo, who wore a suit and Malaysia's traditional cap called "songkok" and joined about 100 athletes and officials from the Muslim country.

The 61-year-old former Olympian played midfield-

See FORMER on Page 26